



ABOVE: Emma and Jack get in the frame.
(Find out why on page 2).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

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THURSDAY, MAY 30TH, 2013

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unsung hero?**
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LET'S RAISE A GLASS TO...
Welsh Wine Week
See feature on Page 18

**Local mayor a
record breaker**
Page 3

CARDIFF CROWN COURT HEARS OF STABBING... **MAESTEG MAN IS FOUND GUILTY**

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A KILLER who attacked a man while wearing only a bath towel, has been jailed for 12 years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Stuart Worvell (22) of Tonna Road, Maesteg, was found not guilty of murdering Thomas Sutton, but guilty of manslaughter.

He was also found not guilty of attempting to murder a friend of Mr Sutton, Kyle Harris.

Mr Justice Wynn Williams said he had seen no sign of remorse.

The court heard that Mr Sutton and Mr Harris called at Worvell's house on the night of June 26, believing a party was going on. Worvell was sitting in his bath listening to music.

Prosecutor Greg Taylor QC said he went downstairs wearing only a towel and opened the door.

As the two men came inside, Worvell, who armed himself with a six-inch knife, stabbed Mr Sutton in the neck and chest.

"It was one of those wounds that probably played a major factor in Mr Sutton's death," said the Judge.

The Judge said that what was certain was that after two stabs, Sutton was in no sort of aggressive state.

The Judge said the victim moved into the house, was followed and stabbed on further occasions.

He pointed out that Mr Harris was not an aggressor, and tried to help his friend.

Worvell reacted by stabbing him.

'FIRST' FOR PORTHCAWL - IN BEACH LIFESAVING!



ABOVE, back row: Lyle Bluck (SLSA Wales tutor), James Evans, Dean Williams (Welsh Ambulance Service), David Davies, Vic Davies, Arran Hughes, Mark Griffiths.

Front row: Jonathan Fish, Penny John, Stephanie Davenport, Charlie Robbins, James Marks (SLSA Wales tutor).

FOLLOWING a 'Memorandum of understanding' between Surf Life Saving Association of Wales and Welsh Ambulance Trust, trained tutors from the association are delivering the trust's Community First Responders Course to beach lifeguards.

Following eight weeks of intensive training, seven members of Porthcawl

Lifeguard Club are the first to qualify under this scheme as Welsh Ambulance Service First Responders based at beaches.

As well as First Aid, the training involved resuscitation skills enhanced by defibrillation and the administration of oxygen to casualties.

A spokesperson said: "The Surf Life Saving Association of Wales would like to congratulate David Davies, Arran

Hughes, Mark Griffiths, Jonathan Fish, Penny John, Stephanie Davenport, and Charlie Robbins on becoming First Responders and Vic Davies on achieving a PADS (defibrillation competency certificate).

"In turn, they would like to thank their tutors - Lyle Bluck and James Marks for delivering the course - and Dean Williams (Welsh Ambulance Service) for the assessment."

THREE JAILED AFTER ASSAULT

LESS than 48 hours after an assault on a 26-year-old man in Maesteg, three people have been jailed and one remains on bail, South Wales Police reported this week.

The incident happened shortly before 11pm on May 22 when four men entered a house on Treharne Road, Maesteg and assaulted the victim.

Three men, Jordan Ackerman, 18, from Caerau; Nathan Lewis, 19, from Maesteg and Ashley Harris, 21 also from Maesteg have received sentences in a young offenders' institute. A fourth man, aged 18, from Caerau has been released on bail.

HOSPITAL REPRIEVED?

FOLLOWING months of protests, petitions and lobbying, the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend looks as if it will not be downgraded.

Instead it looks likely to gain 'regional centre' status.

Further public consultation will follow.
(For a full report, turn to page 4).

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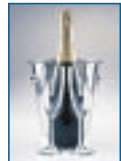
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College students help flag up hate crimes



'Make lifesaving available to kidney sufferers'

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, has joined a group of patients diagnosed with a rare kidney condition, to support their campaign for access to a new drug that would transform their lives.

They were in Westminster to present a petition to MPs recently. "Patients diagnosed with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS) are campaigning to get access to a new drug called Eculizumab, which is highly effective in treating the disease and allows patients to enjoy a near normal quality of life," she explained.

"aHUS is caused by a rare genetic mutation and the rate of kidney failure is high. Transplants have a low success rate, as the disease can recur. Patients are left facing years of dialysis.

"I was delighted to meet the group of aHUS patients, including a representative from Wales who described how there is a cluster of cases in the

Swansea area.

"As co-chair of the All Party Kidney Group, I recently met with a group of aHUS patients. Their stories were heart-breaking; they are being denied an effective treatment that would transform their lives in what largely seems to be a short-sighted attempt to save money.

"Eculizumab means patients no longer have to undergo hours of dialysis or plasma exchange and can get on with their lives. Making it available to this small group of patients would save money in the longer term.

"I raised this issue in the House of Commons on May 13, and along with other MPs, I have written to Ministers. The decision to refer the drug has left patients deeply frustrated and has delayed a submission for approval in Wales.

"Some interim arrangements have been put in place that helps some patients, but not all. It is time to make this drug available to everyone who needs it and end the suffering," the MP insisted.

NEWS FROM THE LALESTON WI

THE Laleston WI meeting on May 4 was the AGM, having been transferred from the autumn.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were received, and the president, Marilyn Davies, spoke about another busy and successful year. She also thanked the officers and committee for their assistance.

Laleston members have had two outings recently. The spring council meeting was held in Porthcawl Pavilion on April 29

with 600 members from 83 institutes. The afternoon guest speaker was Adam Henson from the Countryfile programme. Next day, a group attended a lunch and fashion show at Norton House Hotel, Swansea, which was a most enjoyable event.

A few dates for the diary: June 5, Book Club meeting; June 19, GFWI annual garden party at Margam Park; July 27, Glamorgan WI show at North Cornelly Community Hall.

June 6 is the date of the next monthly meeting at Laleston Gardening Club (7.15pm).

Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet members joined Janice Gregory AM, local police community support officers, Bridgend County Borough Council equalities and engagement officer Paul Williams, Bridgend College Student Union president Hailey Townsend and students Matthew Stevens, Louis Davies, Jamie Eagle and Jordan Forse help councillors raise the flag.

STUDENTS from Bridgend College helped councillors raise a rainbow flag at the Civic Offices to highlight 'International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia' (IDAHO).

Deputy Leader and equalities champion, Coun David Sage said: "We are striving to create a community in which all our citizens can be themselves, live

safely and be free from any discrimination. Sadly, there are still 'hate crimes' being committed every day in Wales against people because of their gender or sexuality. That sort of behaviour has no place in modern society, and raising this flag shows that we are united in our efforts to promote equality and get the message out there that homophobia and transphobia are wrong."

Sweet shop event aims to excite young readers

CHILDREN in Porthcawl can have a 'sweet' time this half-term – as Bridgend Library and Information Service brings back one of its most popular events.

Following its success at Ella Riley's toffee and traditional sweet shop in Bridgend town centre during the Easter holidays, the service will once again be hosting a free Charlie and the Chocolate Factory party at Crazy Humbug Sweet Shop on John Street, 2.30pm – 3.30pm on Wednesday, May 29.

Willy Wonka is inviting children aged five – 11 to come and revel in an afternoon of confectionary capers, with the classic Charlie and the Chocolate Factory story being read by the book's original characters and a fun 'book aerobics' quiz which includes the opportunity to win sweets.

Children attending the

event will also receive a special golden ticket which they can take to Porthcawl Library to receive a free copy of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* when they take out three items from the library.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Our libraries do a great job of putting on fun events for young people in the county borough. There can't be many more exciting ways for children to discover the magic of reading than a party in a sweet shop.

"The original party in Bridgend town centre was very popular and I'd expect this event to be no different, so I'd urge parents and carers to act quickly and book places for their children to avoid disappointment."

To find out more about the party, or to book, contact Diana on 01656 642048.

Did you know that you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

GEM READERS' LETTERS

Council seeks more local foster carers

IT'S currently Foster Care Fortnight, and GEM readers may have seen our fostering team and local foster carers doing a great job of raising awareness at Tesco Extra.

With the continual increase of young people entering the care system, and 13 per cent of foster carers retiring or leaving the profession each year, it's becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable foster carers for all the vulnerable young people in need of care.

Here in Bridgend county borough we currently have 381 children in care. With the number of looked-after children in the UK continuing to rise for the sixth consecutive year, the council recorded an eight per cent increase of children in care last year alone.

We have a particular shortage of foster carers who can look after teenagers and sibling groups of all ages, so we really need to get more people into fostering to make sure that these wonderful young people are all placed with the

right carer for them in the first instance, giving them the stability they need to be able to grow towards their full potential.

Our foster carers all do a magnificent job of looking after the vulnerable children in the county borough and I'd like to reiterate just how grateful we are at the council for the valuable commitment and huge contribution they make to transform the lives of our foster children.

Remember, foster carers can come from all walks of life, with potential carers considered regardless of their age, gender, relationship status, sexual orientation or if they own their own home.

If any of your readers think they could provide a loving home for a young person and have any questions about becoming a foster carer, the council's fostering team are always happy to give guidance and support.

The team can be contacted on 01656 642674 or by visiting www.bridgend.gov.uk/fostering.
Coun Huw David
Cabinet member for children and young people



Emma, a foster carer, and Jack, her biological son, support the 'Get in the Frame for Fostering' campaign

The real victims of the 'bedroom tax'

EVERY day, people are suffering as a result of the UK Government's dismantling of the welfare state.

This cabinet of millionaires has chosen to target those people who are least able to fight back.

Those most affected by changes to welfare payments are not the scroungers portrayed by the Murdoch press. The people who are losing money are the terminally ill, children, workers on low wages, the learning disabled and those at a crisis point as a result of homelessness or domestic abuse.

Research commissioned by the Financial Times has shown that in the Vale of Glamorgan alone, 3,300 households will be affected by the 'bedroom tax', leading to increased risk of homelessness and debt.

A further 16,000 families in the Vale will lose some child benefit, and 8,500 will lose tax credits.

Some will be affected by more than one of these changes, and by others such as the abolition of Disability Living Allowance.

If you are one of these people, you may be interested to know that the Vale MP is a strong supporter of Mr Duncan Smith's reforms, having voted with the government at every stage of the passage of the welfare reform legislation, but he remains silent about the impact on constituents he is supposed to represent.

These include people who have to choose between heating and eating, and those who have to queue for food parcels to feed hungry children and babies.
S Bowyer, Barry.

MPs pay rises are a disgrace

ONCE again, the politicians have shown utter contempt for the people of this country.

First Minister Carwyn Jones spent £50 million of our money on a defunct airport; Cardiff Council are spending over £1 million in salaries on managers because they can't do their jobs properly.

Now we find that our wonderfully incompetent MPs in Westminster are to be given a 15 per cent pay rise – also a bigger rise of around 25 per cent has been mentioned.

Just what planet are these people on? They are certainly not on planet Earth 2013.

Haven't they seen the destruction they have caused outside Westminster?

People are losing jobs, pensioners are struggling to heat their

homes, and over 350,000 people are relying on food banks to feed their families.

This doesn't include all the families who are losing benefits and pensions, and this shameful lot can give themselves this massive pay rise.

What a slap in the face for the hard working people of this country. You can certainly bet that if they are given this rise, the hot air bags in the Senedd will want the same.

The people must show our contempt for this and rise up and to tell David Cameron that we have had enough.

It is sickening to note that my grandson, who has learning difficulties, has had his benefit stopped. Now we know why – it's to pay for these disgusting pay rises.
DJ Radford, Barry.

TASTY PRIZE

I RECENTLY used my GEM prize voucher to eat at The Highwayman, Rhoseu and we really enjoyed our meal. The food was of an excellent quality and very well presented. Thank you.
J Harding

PACT meetings

MORFA PACT, at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street, on Monday, June 3 at 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT at the Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday, June 5 at 6.30pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGWEYDD and BRYNHAFRYD PACT, at Llangweydd Junior School, on Monday, June 10 at 5.30pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at the Community Life Centre, the Precinct, Wildmill, on Thursday, June 13 at 6.30pm.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
30 Thur	11.08	9.1	23.33	9.3
31 Fri			12.04	8.7
01 Sat	00.33	8.9	13.07	8.3
02 Sun	01.37	8.5	14.14	8.2
03 Mon	02.45	8.4	15.17	8.2
04 Tues	03.51	8.3	16.22	8.4
05 Wed	04.49	8.4	17.17	8.5
06 Thur	05.32	8.6	18.03	8.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

ROSS HAS YOUTH
ON HIS SIDE...

Maesteg's new Mayor is a record- breaker

COUNCILLORS in Maesteg are wondering if their newly-appointed mayor could be the youngest in Wales.

Coun Ross Thomas has taken office at the tender age of 25 and, although any national record is out of the question (*Cirencester* recently appointed a 21-year-old) it's a fair bet that he will be the youngest when he gets together with other mayors in the area.

Coun Thomas has lived in Maesteg all his life, and currently lives in Brick Row.

He attended St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Maesteg and then went on to Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive.

He studied social policy at Swansea University and is currently working on a Masters degree in politics.

He told The GEM: "My late grandfather, Tommy Morgan, was a staunch trade unionist, so I guess I have his political blood running through me!"

Ross was first elected to Maesteg Town Council as its youngest-ever member in 2008,



ABOVE: Coun Ross Thomas, the new Mayor of Maesteg. (Photograph by Phil Davies of Scenic Gallery).

and was re-elected in 2012.

At that election, he was elected to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) – also as its youngest-ever member.

He said: "It is a huge honour and privilege to become the Mayor of the town that I love – especially at such a young age – and I have received fantastic support from my family, colleagues and constituents."

"Maesteg is a close-knit community with a wealth of community-based organisations, a huge pool of talent and a rich culture and heritage."

"I am really looking forward to supporting this superb valley in any and every way I can over the coming year."

The out-going mayor is Coun Lynne Beedle. Coun Thomas' deputy mayor will be Coun Phil Jenkins.

NEGOTIATIONS are in hand with Cardiff City over plans to bring the Bluebirds' new training academy to Hensol.

The Vale Council is considering making 37 acres of land available for the project.

The football club has been looking to build its own training academy for some time, and now that it has been promoted to the Premier League, this has become a top priority.

Last week, the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, brought a report to the cabinet of the council, to "seek authority to enter into an agreement for lease and thereafter a 150 year lease with Cardiff City Football Club of approximately 37 acres

of land at Tynnyplancau, Hensol, to enable them to develop the land as training pitches, professional squad and academy buildings".

Cabinet members were told that the club has been looking at various sites in Cardiff and the Vale for a number of months and, following a short-listing of sites and confirmation of promotion to the Premier League, have concluded that the preferred option is to locate training facilities at the council-owned site at Tynnyplancau, Hensol.

The training facilities will need to be designed and constructed to the required Football Association Premier League standards.

The Bluebirds will be looking to construct a number of training pitches for both the professional and academy squads and provide accommodation for ancillary uses including sports rehabilitation, sports medicine, recovery and physiotherapy.

The report noted: "In this regard, there are obvious synergies with the facilities on offer at the neighbouring Vale resort, which has a range of leisure, fitness and sport related facilities on offer".

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson told The GEM:

"Working alongside local sports clubs should be beneficial, and the investment in the Vale must be welcomed."

"However there will be a number of issues that will have to be ironed out before planning permission can be given."

"Local residents are concerned by the increase in traffic and any light pollution that might result from floodlights and night usage of the facilities."

Coun Johnson said he thought the length of the lease was a surprise.

"A 150-year lease must be absolutely water-tight, as no-one ever really knows what the future might hold for a football club not owned by the supporters."

"The final contract must get a good deal for the Vale of Glamorgan, local residents and Cardiff City."

(SEE PAGE 18)

'Come and join us!' say Rotary



ABOVE, president Robert and wife Menna, district governor Bob and wife Mary, outgoing Mayor of Maesteg, Lynne Beedle and husband Tony.

THE Rotary Club of Maesteg's annual president's dinner was held on Saturday, May 18 at the Masonic Hall, Maesteg.

This is an opportunity for the club to enjoy fun and friendship with members of other Rotary clubs.

District governor Bob Lewis toasted the club and went through the achievements for the previous 12 months, at the same time making a plea for new members so that the club can maintain a

presence in Maesteg.

President Robert Davies responded on behalf of the club and also toasted guests who attended the evening.

The Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Lynne Beedle, spoke on behalf of the guests, thanking the club for all the hard work involved in raising funds to donate to various local charities, and wishing them every fortune going forward.

Entertainment was provided by the local duo, 'Brothers in Law'.

PACT meetings

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT, June 3 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

NEWTON PACT, June 4 at Newton School Rooms at 7pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT, June 5 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

CAERAU PACT, June 10 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT, June 10 at Blaengarw RFC at 6.30pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT, June 12 at the Richard Price Centre at 10.30am.

YNSAWDRE PACT, June 12 at Tondau

Community Centre at 6pm.

NANTYMOEL/OGM ORE VALE PACT, June 12 at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel at 7pm.

BETTWS PACT, June 13 at Bettws Life Centre at 6pm.

CORNELLY PACT, June 13 at Cornelly Primary School, Greenfield Terrace at 6.30pm.

BLACKMILL PACT, June 24 at Blackmill Community Centre at 6pm.

ABERKENFIG/PEN-Y-FAI PACT, June 24 at Tondau RFC at 7pm.

FLOWER DEMO

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club presents 'Sticks and Stems' – a demonstration by Elizabeth Gordon – in Cowbridge Town Hall on Wednesday, June 5, at 7.30pm. Admission £7 at the door

Diabetes handbook

IT is estimated that as many as 40 per cent of people in residential care have diabetes – and this group of people, and the people providing their care, face particular difficulties.

Residential care homes, through no fault of their own, are underfunded, have high staff

turnovers and have very little access to the training needed to manage diabetes.

The result of this is that if someone has a low or high blood sugar, very often the carer's first reaction is to call 999, which results in an unnecessary hospital admission.

The Independent Diabetes Trust charity has introduced a

Passport for Diabetes in Care settings, which tells carers what to do if problems arise.

The passports can be obtained by contacting IDDT, telephone 01604 622837, email martin@iddtinternational.org or by writing to IDDT, Po Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS. Martin Hirst Independent Diabetes Trust (IDDT)

SURGERY

OGMORE MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, will be holding a street surgery in Pencoed tomorrow (Friday, May 31) between 1.30pm-3pm; followed by a drop-in surgery between 3pm-4pm at Cylch Meithrin, junction of Penprys Road, Wimbourne Road, CF35 6SS.

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REGIONAL CENTRE IN BRIDGEND? Reprieve likely for Princess of Wales

AFTER months of heated debate, it looks as if the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend will not be down-graded.

The five health boards that make up the south Wales area are to launch another round of consultation, but they have announced that the preferred option is 'option three' - which makes Bridgend a regional centre.

Dr Graham Shortland, medical director of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "We cannot continue to provide consultant-led maternity and neonatal care, inpatient children's services and emergency medicine (A&E) for the most seriously-injured and sick patients in all hospitals - we are not providing the highest quality care for patients all the time and our doctors are spread too thinly.

"Concentrating these services in fewer hospitals in south Wales will mean that patients with life-threatening injuries and illnesses will get faster access to senior clinicians when they come to hospital, which will mean they get faster treatment and get better more quickly.

"The changes will help improve the stan-

dard of care we are able to give to all patients when they come to hospital in the future, because patients will be getting care from the most appropriate clinician for their needs."

A spokeswoman said: "The option which has emerged from the process as having the least impact on all the factors the South Wales Programme has considered, and is therefore the best fit, is option three - concentrating these services in five hospitals: UHW Cardiff, Morriston, SCCC in Cwmbran, Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr, and Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend."

The spokeswoman explained some of the changes that would come about under option three: "Some services - planned surgery and some acute medicine - would need to move from Princess of Wales and UHW to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

"In this scenario, Royal Glamorgan Hospital would provide health services for its local population and some care for people living in the Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale areas."

Byron Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said: "I welcome this news because it has

become increasingly apparent as more information has become available that closing the A&E department at the Princess of Wales Hospital was a complete non starter.

"A Freedom of information request submitted by myself and my colleague Suzy Davies highlighted the scale of the problem. We were told that this department dealt with 60,000 patients in 2012 - of whom 25,000 were classed as suffering from major illnesses or injuries.

"Even if the other 35,000 people could be dealt with at a Minor Injuries Unit, it was obvious that there was no way that other hospitals like Morriston or Llantrisant could have coped with an extra 25,000 serious cases coming into casualty."

There has been considerable opposition to the proposal in Llantwit major, and Coun Gwyn John welcomed the choice of option.

However, he warned: "Local people still need to respond to this latest consultation and make their opposition clear.

"Other groups will still be campaigning for a different option to be chosen."

Dr Andrew Goodall, chief executive of Aneurin Bevan Health

Board and the lead chief executive for the South Wales Programme, said: "Whatever the outcome of the South Wales Programme, all our hospitals have a vital role to play in the future of healthcare for people in South Wales and South Powys.

"No hospitals will be 'downgraded' as a result of this process; no A&E departments will be closed - the majority of patients will continue to get their care from their local hospital, exactly as they do now."

He argued that the time it took an ambulance to get to the hospital was less critical than the quality of care available on arrival.

He said: "It is only the small number of patients who are seriously injured or ill who will have their care provided at a different hospital. For these patients, travelling a little further - in an emergency ambulance with highly-skilled paramedics - will mean they get better care, which will hopefully increase their chances of surviving their illness or injury.

"If these patients need ongoing care, we are committed to getting them to their local hospital closer to home as soon as clinically appropriate."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I welcome the news that the proposals recommend the Princess of Wales Hospital become a regional centre.

"I've been contacted by many residents over recent months who are rightly concerned about how such essential care and treatment would be provided on a local basis, should the health board choose to close the units as part of their plans for healthcare provision in the future.

"It is vital now to ensure that as a community we keep up the pressure to ensure that the residents and businesses of the western Vale can continue to receive excellent care and treatment locally.

"I will be doing all I can to support the A&E, maternity and children's ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital, and would urge all to make their representations to the consultations."

Philip Irwin

Challenge of running a large UK prison

"Lock them up and throw the key away" is a familiar viewpoint when talking about those who for various reasons fail to live within the law.

Not so Mrs Janet Wallsgrove, who has been director of the UK's second largest prison since 2007 and is responsible for 1,474 Category B adult male prisoners, juveniles and young offenders who are all 'guests of her Majesty' in Bridgend.

HMP Parc opened in 1997 and is Wales's largest prison, followed by Cardiff (opened in 1832), Precoed/Usk (1939), and Swansea (1861) but surprisingly there is no women's prison in Wales.

Mrs Wallsgrove, who is married with two children, intrigued members of Porthcawl U3A with her talk on the key challenges she and her 660 staff face every day to keep Parc the most advanced and complex prison in the country.

The first to be built in the UK under the Government's Private Finance Initiative, and the only one in Wales, it is managed and operated by the security company G4S on a 25-year contract under Home Office inspection and supervision.

Designed with swipe cards, PIN telephones and personalised voice identification equipment, with computer surveillance, it greatly increases the internal standards and external security.

No anti-social behaviour is tolerated at Parc, and the daily routine starts at 7.30am with work from 8.15 until 12.30 and from 2pm until the 5.30pm evening meal; 7pm is 'lock up' for most and a 50 hour week maximum earning capacity is just over £20.

The current age of Parc inmates ranges

from 15 to 87 and many are damaged or difficult people with physical or mental health problems - and some are even second generation who have never had a job.

Unfortunately, south Wales has the highest alcohol and domestic violence record in the UK and helping all individuals not to re-offend after release is paramount.

A 'personal stay plan' is made for every inmate and concentrates on education and practical training from a wide range of subjects which include English, maths, IT, music, languages, art and animal care.

A range of vocational courses up to Open University are encouraged, and there is a training complex of nine workshops for carpentry, metalwork, graphic design and manufacturing.

One visiting employer congratulated Mrs. Wallsgrove on her "staff's professionalism" - only to be told they were prisoners!

She described being the director as an interesting and satisfying journey, particularly when people leave with qualifications and aspirations for a better life.

For those requiring more care, the Invisible Walls project, which includes a partnership with families, is a great success.

HMP Parc is a difficult and complex society in which to work and when phase 2 is completed a further 387 prisoners will be accommodated, but it has won many awards and obtained top grade Level 4 status for its performance and innovation.

This is not surprising when Janet Wallsgrove outlines the commitment and dedication given by all who work there.

GARY VICTOR

Nathan's Dad wins 'Unsung Hero' award



ABOVE: Ann Ellis, chair of the Welsh Sports Association, congratulates Barrie Stephens.

HAVING devoted the past 15 years of his life to volunteering in disability sport, Barrie Stephens was recognised for his efforts at the Welsh Sports Association Hall of Fame Awards evening, where he picked up the 'Unsung Hero' award at a ceremony in the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.

The Bridgend-based, father of two, one being Paralympian Nathan Stephens, has tirelessly devoted his free time to providing invaluable support for both academy and elite athletes.

A Disability Sport Wales spokeswoman said: "One of his biggest contributions is building custom-made equipment for athletes built specifically for their level of function and impairment.

"This equipment is vital in enabling athletes to reach their maximum potential.

"His passion for dis-

ability sport goes above and beyond a full time job.

"He willingly gives up his annual leave to spend his time as an unpaid volunteer, driving athletes across Europe in order for them to compete."

Anthony Hughes, performance manager, Disability Sport Wales, commented: "I could not be more thrilled for Barrie.

"Nothing is ever too much trouble for him and the sacrifice he makes, both personally and professionally, is second to none.

"He is an amazing father and dear friend to many people in the sporting community across Wales and I can confidently say he is held in high esteem and with great respect by everyone at Disability Sport Wales.

"He is without doubt a one of a kind individual, a vital asset to our organization.

"I couldn't think of anyone who deserves this award more."

Countdown to the Madness Musical!

THREE stars, Lily Tyler Henley, Carl Thomas and Ieuan Briars from the music and drama Department of Bridgend College's production of the hit comedy musical Our House recently took time out to discuss the gruelling rehearsal schedule.

Carl from Bridgend, who will graduate to E15 Acting School in London and has the part of Joe's Dad, stated that the cast had been working hard over the last month and would be, honing their performances, even through half term.

Lily, also from Bridgend, in her first comedy role as Charlie, is excited at the prospect of performing in her last appearances at the college before going on to Chichester or Trinity Laban of Greenwich, London.

Ieuan from Port Talbot, is also part of the Bridgend Youth Theatre and Bridgend Castle Players.

He was recently awarded, at the



The three stars talk about 'Our House'.

Glamorgan Drama Festival, the adjudicators award of outstanding achievement and dedication for supporting and leading acting roles.

His feet never touch the ground in this production, as he has the multi-roles of Mr Jesmond, Grandad and

the Magistrate. Ieuan will be going on to either Canterbury or Bath Spa University after this production.

They can be seen at the Sony Theatre, Cowbridge Road campus from June 6 - 8.

Words and pictures by Frank Shipton.

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online?
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today.co.uk**

Who wants to build what and where?

Miss C Gould - 3 The Paddock, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend - To undertake a 40 per cent crown reduction and remove growth to lower trunk of a mature Ash tree.

BCBC Parks Department - 10 Raphael Avenue, Brackla - Remove large lower limb and major dead wood from crown of Oak tree.

Mr Peter Shadis - 13 Longlands Close, Pyle - Demolish existing garage and construct new single storey side extension.

Mr Paul Haynes - 27 Penylan Avenue, Porthcawl - Change use to provide day care, respite care and special educational services for children aged three to seven.

Mr Alan Thomas - Tyn y Pwnt, Uchaf Farm, Llangynwyd, Maesteg - Agricultural barn.

HD Ltd - 31-37 Caroline Street, Bridgend - Removal of internal corridor to 33 Caroline Street.

Mr R Carmody - 6 Kenfig Mews off 11 High Street, Kenfig Hill - Retrospective consent for one four-bedroom dwelling.

Mr Wright - 18 Woodside Avenue, Litchard - new pitched roof double extension, build over existing garage, demolish existing shed.

Mr Andrew Coupland - 5 Bron Hafod, Broadlands - Two storey extension to gable elevation.

Parry Britain Ltd - 4 Davids Close, David Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Retrospective application for change of use of 175 sq m of ground floor space from B8 to A1.

Mr and Mrs A and S Jones - The Fruit Bowl, Heol Llangeinor, Llangeinor - Change of use from convenience store (A1) to hot food shop (A3).

Mr Neil Gibbs - 1 West Road, Bridgend - Change of colour and style to windows/door/roof windows and change colour to exterior.

Mr Wayne Davies - 10 Y Lleest, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend - Remove existing conservatory to front and replace with single storey extension and new balcony to rear elevation.

Mr Turner - 9 Rhodfa, Brynnemyn, Sarn - Erect a PVCU conservatory to the rear of the property.

Mr Geoff Phillips - 13 Lougher Gardens, Porthcawl - Single storey kitchen and dining room extension.

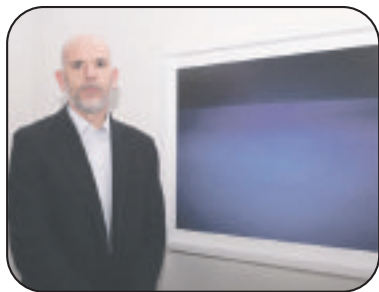
Mr Lee Garbett - 49 New Road, Porthcawl - Change of use from single dwelling over shop into two flats over shop with rear access.

Mr Derek Waldron - 4 Tirwaun Place, Maesteg - Single storey extension.

Mrs Claire Hobby - 2 Preswylfa Court, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend - Extend existing driveway by 9sq m using matching blocks.

Mr Richard Hawkins - Maes-y-Fynnon, Chapel Row, Rhiwceiliog, Bridgend - Two storey extension to side.

Photo lecturers put their work on show!



Aled Rhys Hughes



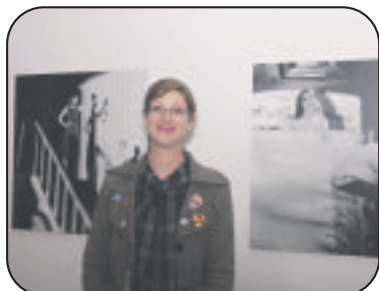
Robin Dring

An exhibition by academic staff at Bridgend College, entitled 'Present', recently took place at the new Cardiff Metropolitan University Arts Academy, in Trade Street, Cardiff.

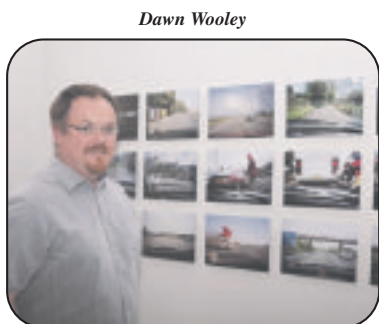
It was a group exhibition by Robin Dring, Aled Rhys Hughes, David Lewis, Shaun McDermott, Richard Shaffner, Rhiannon Wildman and Dawn Wooley of varied photographic practices, spanning landscape, studio, fine art and documentary.

All the exhibitors lecture and mentor on the extended diploma and BA Hons courses run at Bridgend College in conjunction with Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Course Leader Shaun McDermott said that they were proud to exhibit their work at this new prestigious venue in the centre of Cardiff and were extremely pleased to see so many of their students attending the official opening.



David Lewis



Dawn Wooley



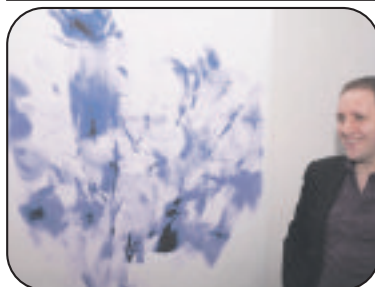
Shaun McDermott



Rhiannon Wildman

Richard Shaffner

Words and pictures:
FRANK SHIPTON.
Email frankshipton@mac.com, telephone
07790 882925.



U3A on show in Porthcawl



Handel Davies, chairman of Porthcawl U3A.

AS a contribution to Adult Learners week, Porthcawl U3A put together an exhibition of photographs showing the diversity of the organisation.

The exhibition was in the Co-op, Lias Road. A spokesman said: "The University of the Third Age is a unique and exciting self-help educational movement for people no longer in full time employment.

"It offers the opportunity to pursue learning for sheer enjoyment.

"A U3A programme reflects its members' wishes and resources. It covers a wide range of

interests, such as languages, art history, music, history, walking, painting and more.

"It enjoys a social programme that includes day excursions to places of interest. Recent days out have included a visit to Cardiff Castle, the Malvern Agricultural Show and this week to Dyrham Park near Bristol."

Members of the public were invited to attend the U3A stand at the Cooperative store, which was manned last week, if they wanted information or literature about the organisation.

CM

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bridgend-today.co.uk

Health: views sought

LOCAL residents will, hopefully, be aware of plans to reorganise and downgrade key health services – A&E, neonatal, obstetrics and paediatrics.

The proposals are currently being put to wider public consultation as the 'south Wales programme'.

The consultation process has been launched by south Wales' local health boards and will reconfigure health service provision across the region. I cannot stress enough how important it is that local residents get involved in this discussion and make sure that their concerns are heard.

Whilst there is a legitimate political argument over whether any downgrading should be taking place at all, these proposals are now on the table and we must take our chance to influence the outcome, because these plans will represent service provision for a generation or more.

Whether you are a Vale resident – concerned that the future of the Princess of Wales A&E unit is up in the air – or from the Valleys and anxious about the fate of the Royal Glamorgan's unit, the message is the same: have your say.

In fact, this applies equally to everyone in south Wales, wherever you live. Reducing the number of centres offering specialist treatment will place huge pressure on those who retain the service, could cause confusion and, ultimately, lead to patients having to travel further to receive care.

These proposals will radically change the provision of A&E and critical care in many communities. That's why I have approached a number of local community and parish councils (as well as other voluntary and community groups) to offer my assistance, and I look forward to taking forward the views of my constituents.

The Welsh Government has abjectly failed to commit to developing community healthcare and improving ambulance response times and it is against this backdrop that these proposals must be considered.

That they are on the table at all is an indictment of the damage that Labour are doing to the NHS in Wales; failing to recruit and retain enough clinicians to maintain these vital services and cutting £800 million from the budget over five years (the only country in the UK to do so).

If you would like me to raise concerns on your behalf, or if you wish to receive a copy of the consultation papers, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Andrew RT Davies AM.

Porthcawl RNLI volunteers receive gallantry awards

TWO RNLI lifeboat crew members from Porthcawl were recently presented with the charity's Bronze Gallantry Medal award for their part in a hazardous flood rescue last December.

RNLI lifeboat assessor Paul Eastment and Cardiff PSCO Chris Missen were handed their medals at the charity's annual awards in London for saving a woman from a flooded river in Umberleigh, Devon.

Paul and Chris were called, along with Penarth RNLI volunteer Jason Dunlop, who are all members of the RNLI's specialist flood rescue team, to assist RNLI volunteers in south west England after major flooding on December 23.

It was the first time RNLI Gallantry Medals were awarded for a flood rescue.

Chris said: "Even though it's an absolute honour for both Paul and myself to receive these awards, we couldn't have done what we did that night without the help and support of everyone involved in the RNLI – from trainers to fundraiser, basically everyone who helps make the institution what it is, and helping us the volunteers assist others."

The rescue took place in the early hours of December 23 at Umberleigh, where the river Taw had reached 3.5 metres above its normal range.

Mother-of-one Vanessa Glover had been swept from her car after it was forced off a road by powerful flood water, leaving her husband and seven-year-old son clinging to the car roof.

She had managed to catch hold of a branch, but a rescue helicopter was over an hour away and initial rescue attempts were unsuccessful. With no other options available, the RNLI's Flood Rescue Team was launched.

The situation was inherently dangerous: the team was unfamiliar with the area, it was dark, the flood waters were moving at 12 knots and carrying debris; with no signs of the rain stopping, the river continued to rise.

Matt Crofts, RNLI Divisional Operations Manager and Flood Rescue Team Manager said: "This rescue took place in the most difficult conditions and its successful completion is testament to the dedication and training of the team."

"I am delighted that the team who risked their lives to complete this rescue are being recognised for their bravery and selflessness; they acted in the finest traditions of the Lifeboat service and truly deserve this recognition."

Porthcawl RNLI volunteers have been awarded numerous RNLI Gallantry Medals over the years – helm Aileen Jones was the first woman in 116 years to be awarded an RNLI Bronze Medal for her part in rescue in 2004.

School raises more than £200 for SignHealth

Schoolchildren in Bridgend recently raised more than £200 for charity – by taking part in a world record breaking attempt for the most people signing and singing simultaneously.

Pupils at Corneli Primary School on Hall Drive in North Corneli, raised £243 for 0., the national deaf healthcare charity, during its sign2sing event.

Steve Powell, Chief Executive at 0., said: "We would like to thank Corneli Primary School for taking part in sign2sing and raising such a fantastic amount; sign2sing is a fundraiser for us through a suggested £1 donation from everyone taking part."

"Children were asked to wear a scarf like Olli the monkey, who is SignHealth's official mascot, to school on the day of sign2sing and take in their £1 donation."

"The money raised during the event will make such a positive difference to our work improving the mental and physical health and well-being of deaf children and adults."

Hundreds of schools from all over the country and overseas registered to take part in SignHealth's Guinness World Records sign2sing project.

The schools ranged in size from 30 to 800 pupils, which, from the charity's calculations, means that more than

135,000 schoolchildren took part in the event. The exact number of participants will be confirmed by Guinness World Records at a later date.

The previous world record, which 0 set last year, was 114,277 and the charity is hoping to have smashed this.

Steve added: "sign2sing has been a truly fantastic event and we're extremely grateful for all of the support from everyone who took part. In total, we have raised £59,462.07, which will make a significant

contribution to the work of the charity."

0. will be organising the event again next year, and anyone wishing to take part is invited to contact 0. to register their interest. For more information about sign2sing or to register interest for next year's event, please visit www.sign2sing.org.uk or contact 0. on 01494 687600. Alternatively, sign2sing is on Twitter at www.twitter.com/sign2sing and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sign2sing.

PORTHCAWL BRIDGE CLUB

DUE to the imminent closure of the Rest Hotel, the club is having to relocate its Monday evening sessions.

As from Monday, June 20, the club will now play in the downstairs hall of Glamorgan Holiday Hotel. We extend a warm welcome to visitors at our new venue (our Thursday and Saturday club nights are unaffected in the Awel-y-Mor Centre).

Latest results: Saturday May 11th: first – Vida Halford & Glyn Williams & Tony Haworth; second – Eileen Mahoney & Roger Draper. Monday May 13: first – Emer Disley & Pat Haworth; second – Betty Longley & Sue Anthony.

Thursday, May 16: first –

Peter & Sandie Jenkins; second – Gary Williams & Tony Haworth.

Saturday May 18: first – Roger Plant & Betty Longley; second – Trish Saunders & Janet Richards. Monday May 20: first – Gary Williams & Tony Haworth; second – Emer Disley & Betty Longley.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm – 10.15pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656785794. TONY HAWORTH

Bridgend Mash Up proves eye-catching mix of events



IT was a street party like no other as thousands of people were treated to a spectacular feast of sport, music, arts and urban culture as part of the 'Bridgend MashUp'.

Bridgend town centre was packed on Saturday, May 18 with families marvelling at the sight of pole vaulters leaping along Dunraven Place and surfers riding tarpaulin waves on Wyndham Street.

Other streets were transformed into circuits for scooters and stunt bikes, while visitors also enjoyed trying their hand at a range of fun activities, such as learning how to perform magic tricks, mastering the art of street running and taking part in rap workshops held at Bridgend Library.

Now in its third year, the 'Bridgend MashUp' is one of the most eye-catching events put on by Bridgend County Borough Council, working together with local activity businesses and partner organisations.

Coun Sage added: "It was a really fun day and I'm already looking forward to the next major event which will be the Bridgend Festival in September, followed by the Porthcawl SplashUp in October."

To find out more about upcoming events in Bridgend County Borough please visit www.bridgendbites.com.



Free running displays were among the MashUp highlights

WALK OF WITNESS ATTRACTS THE CROWDS

ON Saturday, May 18 an IF Walk of Witness took place in Bridgend, setting off from the Quaker Meeting House on Park Street.

Walkers – some adorned in striking 'IF' T-shirts – took in churches in Bridgend, with stops for reflection and refreshments. Coun Marlene Thomas, Mayor of Bridgend, opened the event, and Madeleine Moon, MP walked part of the way with us.

Deana Owen, a member of Bridgend Quaker Meeting and one of the organisers of the walk, spent three months in Zambia, last year and has set up a charity called 'Friends of Monze' to support families and orphans in the town where she was based.

As a former health visitor, Deana was deeply affected by a community ravaged by AIDS, poverty and climate change yet struggling to support itself and be sustainable.

"Due to climate change, the harvest in Monze was poor this year", she said.

"Prices for mealie meal, the staple food made from ground sweet corn, have soared to twice what is usual for this time of year. Families are facing hunger months in a country where 45 per cent are stunted from malnutrition. Some rely on 'Friends of Monze' to help pay essential school fees,"

It was good to feel



LEFT: Walkers setting off.



Marlene Thomas at the event

that people in Bridgend community could do something – however small – to support families and children like those in Monze who are struggling to get enough food to thrive.

For further information, please visit www.bridgendquakers.org.uk/monze.html or telephone 07807660543 or 07720087132.

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bridgend-today.co.uk

Make good use of waste cooking oil



Jack (nine) and Tommie (seven) recycling waste cooking oil

COOKING chips may not seem like an obvious way to make energy to brew your tea, but residents in Bridgend have been helping to power their homes, all by recycling their used cooking oil.

By dropping off oil at collection points located at each of the county's four civic amenity and household recycling sites, residents are helping to divert used cooking oil from drains.

Currently, it costs UK water companies around £15 million each year to clear drains and sewers blocked by 'fatbergs', large masses of waste oil and grease that can only be broken down by hand.

However, in a partnership between Bridgend Borough County Council (BCBC), waste contractor May Gurney and eco-firm Living Fuels, used cooking oil is naturally settled and recovered into an environmentally friendly bioliquid, which is then used in Living Fuels' renewable energy facilities to provide green electricity to the National Grid.

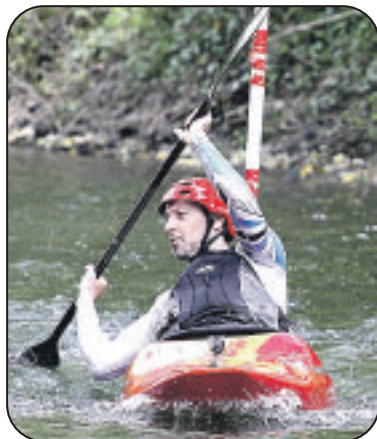
Rob Murphy, Living Fuels' Operations Director said of the

scheme: "By recycling your used cooking oil at local household recycling sites, you are not only ridding yourselves of a sticky, messy waste but helping to lower the UK's reliance on fossil fuel derived energy."

Since the installation of the tanks in 2010, residents have managed to collect enough used cooking oil to create power to brew almost three million cups of tea.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities at BCBC, said: "On behalf of the council, May Gurney and Living Fuels, I'd like to thank local residents for their efforts in helping us to make Bridgend County Borough a cleaner, greener place for people to live in, work in and visit."

Adam Jones, contract manager for May Gurney, added: "The waste cooking oil facilities are an important element in our joint efforts to offer householders in Bridgend County Borough opportunities for recycling a wide range of materials, and serve to demonstrate the many different ways in which ordinary household waste can be recycled and reused."



Pole vaulting on Dunraven Place.



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Princess of Wales

I HAVE been asked by Council Leader Mel Nott if I will help raise his concerns about the Bridgend hospital.

The media has reported front line services will be maintained and it is to become one of five regional centre hospitals, but there has been no official notification of this.

The council believes these services are critical to the local area.

There is still another period of public consultation to go through and Coun Nott believes the public should make its concerns known.

Bridgend needs to keep the flag flying for the POW and pressure must be kept up until the final decision is made.

It is down to everyone to push to keep the services in Bridgend.

This consultation phase is critical as this will be our chance to reiterate the very strong arguments which have already been put forward.

The councillor states: "We undoubtedly want and need the citizens of

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Bridgend County to feel engaged and empowered to make a difference to their own lives. Playing a part in fighting for the POW is one way of doing that."

Choir concert

MAESTEG Children's Choir is putting on its 27th annual concert in Maesteg town hall on Friday June 28 at 7pm.

The show will be titled 'The Electrical Blues' and features music from the 80s. Tickets will be available from choristers and by telephone, on 07970 770927.

Bryncethin PACT

The next meeting will now take place on Wednesday June 5 at 6pm in Nazareth

chapel. Everyone is welcome to voice their concerns.

Gleemen's dinner dance

MAESTEG Gleemen Male Voice Choir recently sang at the convention of the European Basketball Federation in the Celtic Manor.

The choir had been engaged by local basketball legend Phil John, to entertain the representatives after dinner.

The Musical Director Alun Hodges and accompanist wife Suzanne had selected the songs to be sung at the concert, from the choir's extensive repertoire.

Among the songs they had chosen were 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir', 'Thanks be to God', with that fine tenor compère Anthony Bywe singing solo 'Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn'.

The choir followed this with 'Fat Bottom Girls' and 'Nessum Dorma' for which the 300 strong audience gave a standing ovation. David Little sang 'The White Rose' and Alun Hodges with Anthony Bywe sang a duet of 'Mac D'Eisiau Di Bob Awr'.

The choir finished its performance for the evening with 'We'll keep a welcome in the hillside' and the Welsh National Anthem.

Tynyrheol primary

MR Martin Griffiths the Headteacher has congratulated pupils in class three who recently took part in the 'Ospreys' schools programme.

As part of the scheme, the school was visited by two of the 'Osprey's' first team players and had an interactive guided tour of the Liberty Stadium, where the regional rugby team plays.

One of the pupils Kai Lewis has been selected as the school's representative in the Bridgend and District schools squad to play in a basketball tournament in

Northampton next month. The school basketball team beat Ogmort Vale primary school in the first game of the season.

Tondu primary

MRS Susan Pilcher the Head teacher has invited parents and friends of pupils in reception classes Cynffig and Ewenni to their assembly on Friday June 7 at 10.20am. Everyone will be welcome to stay after assembly for a cuppa and a chat.

Choir entertains

BRACKLA Community choir has again demonstrated community spirit by entertaining the elderly residents in The Rest residential home, Porthcawl.

They performed a concert in which the musical director Gillian Ridout with the choir's accompanist Gareth Waite had chosen music for the residents to join in.

The choir rehearses at Brackla Community Centre on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9.00pm. New members are always welcome.

School's award.

CEFN GLAS infants school recently joined a select group in Wales to receive the National Quality Award, and the Investors in People silver award.

Carwyn Jones, the First Minister, when visiting the school congratulated teachers and pupils on gaining the awards.

He was entertained with a performance of children's author Julia Donaldson's characters Zog and Pearl the Princess (Zog was a 6 foot dragon).

Pontycymer nursery had been the first school in Bridgend CBC area to achieve the healthy schools National Quality Award, Cefn Glas is the second school in the borough to gain this award.

Busy choir

BRIDGEND male choir has a busy eight-day period ahead - on Saturday June 1 it is taking part in the Anglo Welsh Festival in Birmingham town hall, and in St David's Hall, Cardiff on Saturday June 8.

On June 9 it will be singing in the marquee at the conclusion of Mair's Walk for the Stepping Stones Cancer Charity appeal, led this year by choir patron, Max Boyce.

Carers' Centre

BRIDGEND Carers' Centre is based at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479).

Today (May 30) there will be the AGM, starting at 10am with a coffee morning to follow from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Between 1pm to 2pm, carers can take part in light exercises in Darja's 'Body Blitz' at the centre. Phone the above number to book a place.

Friday June 1, the outreach group is at the Princess of Wales hospital from 10am to 12 noon. They will advise carers on the merits of carrying an emergency card with them at all times.

June 4, the outreach group will again be at the POW hospital from 10am to 12pm. In the afternoon at the centre, carers of disabled or ill children under 19 years of age can have coffee and cake with Davinia, and at the same time be pampered by Cath from Beauty Spot who offers her services free of charge from 12.45 to 3pm.

June 5, the Community Café will be open from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, and on the same day Paula will be with the library van as it delivers books in the Sarn/Ynysawdre area from 9am to 1pm.

June 6, there will be an outreach group at Trinity church hall, Porthcawl and at Velindre hospital.

There will also be a coach trip trip to Swansea Grand Theatre, to see *The Mousetrap*. The coach leaves Hope chapel at 10.30am and returns at approximately 6pm. Call the centre for details.

At Smyrna chapel, Penyfaif, everyone is welcome to the Cymantha Ganu on Friday June 7 at 7pm.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Pensioner is crippled for life after man crashes his van into her

A PENSIONER has been crippled for life after her son-in-law crashed his van into her.

Pauline Crabtree was trapped against a wall, which then collapsed on her, said prosecutor Ieuan Morris at Cardiff Crown Court.

James Mechan (42) of Church Road, Barry, admitted a charge of dangerous driving.

He was jailed for a year, and disqualified from driving for three years. Said Judge Niclas Parry: "You were a ticking bomb, a disaster waiting to happen."

"You have no doubt you were not fit to drive."

He said that if he had killed Mrs Crabtree, he would have gone to prison for six or seven years.

"What happened was almost inevitable," said the Judge.

Mr Morris said that at the time, Mechan was driving a transit van, when he should not have been on the road. He suffered from a medical condition which made him unfit to drive. He should have disclosed this to the DVLA.

Mrs Crabtree had serious injuries including two fractured legs.

She also had to undergo a bone graft.

Since the incident she cannot sleep properly, is in constant pain and cannot run, jump or kneel.

The collision, said Mr Morris occurred in Bridgend Road, Barry, at about 11.45am on June 23.

Mechan mounted the kerb, pinning Mrs Crabtree against a wall which collapsed on her.

Six months before, he had gone to his GP and was diagnosed with a form of epilepsy. He was advised not to climb ladders and he wrongly indicated to the doctor that he was not a driver.

At the time, Pauline Crabtree was returning home for lunch, and was yards from her house when the van suddenly appeared.

After the incident, Mechan drove off and parked.

He walked up to the scene and said: "What's happened here, then?"

When the police arrived, he said he had been experiencing blackouts.

He later maintained he didn't know he had a medical condition.

In addition to the bone grafts, said Mr Morris, the injured woman had metal plates inserted in the injuries.

While she was in hospital, Mechan telephoned her and said he didn't know how he hit her.

He was said to have previous convictions for driving with excess alcohol and driving while disqualified.

His barrister, Andrew Taylor, said: "He has not driven since the incident. It was a very unfortunate case of dangerous driving."

Man suffered double fracture of the jaw in 'unprovoked' attack

ONE of two men who were involved in a verbal exchange in a town centre, suffered a double fracture of the jaw, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Jordan Hunt (19) of Fford Elin, Barry, admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on 26-year-old Matthew Gill and was sentenced to 18 months in a young offender institution.

Said Judge Niclas Parry: "This was a wholly unprovoked attack in broad daylight in a public place. It was cowardly and snide."

"You approached from the side where he could not see the blow that was coming."

"You then decked him and punched him when he was on the floor."

"You have trained boxing skills, and you used them."

This was a sustained attack causing serious injury."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said the incident in Barry Road, Barry, was captured on closed circuit television.

The two men had words, after which Hunt attacked Mr Gill causing him a double fracture of the jaw which had to be wired and re-set.

He still suffers from numbness.

Since the incident, Mr Gill said he felt too scared to go to Barry to visit friends. He said: "I don't know how I'll get over this."

He also added that he no longer liked going out.

Doctors have told him, he said, that he

could have nerve damage to his face for the rest of his life.

Said Mr Greenwood: "Mr Gill can think of no motive for the attack."

The court heard that Hunt had a previous conviction for actual bodily harm in an incident of "gratuitous violence" in Thompson Street, Barry.

His counsel, Peter Harding-Roberts, said: "It was accepted that the victim could not defend himself, but at the time the two had exchanged words."

"The harm caused was not the most serious, but the assault didn't end with just one punch."

He added there was no premeditation, and he decided to attack on the spur of the moment.

"His father was the first to say he was completely out of order," said Mr Harding-Roberts.

Young critics' work in print



Emily Morgan (left) and Hannah Newberry show off their article in Plugged In magazine.

BRYNTEG Comprehensive's Emily Morgan and Hannah Newberry had their review of The Blackout's recent gig at Hobos Music Venue in Bridgend town centre, published by Welsh music publication, Plugged In magazine.

The fledgling journalists appraised the band's performance as part of the Young Critics Scheme. Co-ordinated by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development team, the scheme helps aspiring arts critics aged between 12 and 25 to find new ways of sharing their views about arts events in Wales.

Brynteg's Sian Burgess said: "The Young Critics scheme is great. The pupils involved have enjoyed writing about their favourite bands, or films but they have also written about theatre productions that they might not necessarily have gone to see."

"It was rewarding for the pupils to see their names in print. The scheme at Brynteg is currently run on a small-scale, but new members are always welcome."

Participants on the Young Critics Scheme benefit from access to exclusive workshops, events and activities, expert advice and guidance from professional arts journalists, and the opportunity to meet like-minded people their age.

BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, Coun Lyn Morgan, said: "The Young Critics Scheme provides fantastic opportunities for young people to discover a variety of arts events and performances, and to start developing their craft as young arts critics."

"It's great that the scheme is providing a platform for talented young writers like Emily and Hannah to make a name for themselves in the world of arts journalism."

"I'm sure we'll be seeing their names appearing next to a number of big reviews in the future."

First Responders want volunteers

THE local group, East Vale First Responders, based in Llantwit Major, is appealing for volunteers.

Community First Responders are trained to attend emergency calls received by the ambulance service and provide care until the ambulance arrives.

The local organisation has been going for eight years and there are many people in the

local community who have been grateful for their swift arrival.

Spokesman, Byron Evans, said: "We set up East Vale First Responders in 2006 - at the time I was a responder for about 18 months in Barry."

"We are always keen to recruit more volunteers and if people are interested they can go to the website: www.evfjr.co.uk for more details."

Byron's wife Elizabeth has also been an important member of the

group, supervising the critical aspect of training.

In fact, a recent donation to the local responders led to a nostalgic trip down memory lane for the couple

Byron explained: "Elizabeth and I went to Llantwit Major and District Riding Club to receive a cheque for £1,000."

"We had met at the club 30 years earlier! Elizabeth was a member at the time."

CLUB LIGHTHOUSE YOUNGSTERS TUCK INTO HEALTHY EATING...



CHILDREN from the Salvation Army's 'Club Lighthouse' project in Castle Street, Maesteg, had a great time tasting lots of different fruit and vegetables on a healthy eating night.

They enthusiastically tucked into apples, pears, bananas and more exotic fruit – such as pineapple, melon, kiwi fruit and sharon fruit, which had been provided by Asda Stores and prepared by Lisa and Mair from the community involvement team.

Town Mayor, Coun Ross Thomas, went along to offer his support, and thanked Karen and Jonathan Davies, the organisers of Club Lighthouse and the Asda team, for doing their bit to encourage the children to enjoy their '5 a day'.



New bead shop opens

'Wild About Beads' in the heart of Newton Village, aims to supply all customers' beading requirements, including a range of gifts, ready-made jewellery, handbags and scarves.

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Bridgend's Ahnuh in music final line-up



ABOVE: Anuh Valentine has reached the grand final of TeenStar at the O2.

AHNUH Valentine from Bridgend made it through to the grand final of national singing competition **TeenStar** and will play London's O2 on July 7 after wowing the crowd and judging panel at the TeenStar area finals in Reading.

Already confirmed on the judging panel is Choice FM's and former Radio 1 DJ Ras Kwame,

KISS FM's Charlie Hedges, and Ivor Novello and award-winning songwriter and producer Mark Hill!

TeenStar is a new national talent competition for teens and pre-teen singers, singer-songwriters, rappers and vocalists of all genres.

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PTA FUN RUN RAISES CASH FOR LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDS



ON a lovely sunny afternoon at the end of the half term, the Parents and Friends Association at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School held their annual fun run.

This is a hugely popular event where pupils obtain sponsorship to run laps of the school field, negotiating a few tricky obstacles set up by PE co-ordinator, Mr Ball.

The PTA team monitor the laps and mark them with stickers and they also provide a refreshment stall for thirsty runners.

The event is always well supported and rais-

es around £1,000 for school equipment each year. Headteacher, Richard Ware, thanked all who helped to make the fun run a success: "This is a great way to raise money for the school, taking lots of healthy exercise while having fun at the same time," he said. NM



Official opening

PORHCAWL YMCA is opening its doors (officially) on Saturday June 8, in a ceremony presided over by Lord Lieutenant for Mid Glamorgan, Mrs KE Thomas.

Among other special guests will be the Mayor of Porthcawl and the Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend. Activities will begin at 11.15am and the ribbon will be cut at precisely midday.

There will be activities for all of the family and there will be a procession on John Street.

For further information call Claire Bridge on 01656 772166 or sdw@theycentre.co.uk

The merry month of May with U3A

MEMBERS of the committee of Porthcawl U3A stood in the Cooperative Store, Lias Road for most of last week, in recognition of 'Adult Learners week'.

It was an opportunity for members of the public to hear first hand about the many and varied activities this vibrant organisation enjoys each month.

Well known for its educational group activities the photographic exhibition provided evidence of the many field visits and social occasions that members also enjoy throughout the year. New members are always welcome.

Anyone requiring further information should ring 01656 78663.

Members enjoyed a lovely day out at a state-of-the-art home situated in the beautiful grounds of Dyrrham Park near Bath. Travelling by coach and following a quality lunch, the participants enjoyed touring this very well-appointed National Trust property.

Members enjoyed a talk by one of the curators that expertly guided their tour throughout. Everyone enjoyed yet another successful Porthcawl U3A social occasion while also learning about mysteries of the past.

Earlier in the month, Porthcawl U3A made its biannual pilgrimage to the Malvern Agricultural and Flower Show.

Despite indifferent weather, most members felt it was a most enjoyable experience. The hundreds of exhibits were complemented by the floral marquee and the show gardens reminiscent of Chelsea, but which also featured this year's 'children's garden' section.

Another highlight of the exciting 'U3A Month of May' was the very interesting and revealing talk provided by the Director of Parc Prison.

U3A caters for all tastes and is an organisation that has a lot of fun amongst its wonderfully organised group learning.

CLIVE MORT

Man caught with drugs in night club

STAFF at a Cardiff club discovered a man in possession of prohibited drugs when they went into a lavatory.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Ryan Ansell (21) of Jackson's Quay, Barry, was jailed for a year, the sentence suspended for 18 months.

Ansell had admitted possessing mephadrone with the intent to supply.

Said Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones: "I have a suspicion you were dealing in drugs on a greater scale than what I have to sentence you for. I sentence you on the basis that you are a small-time dealer."

He said the courts crack down on people who supply drugs, for the simple reason they cause a lot of trouble.

"Rest assured if you come back here again for dealing in drugs, a long sentence will follow. You are trying to better yourself, and that's to your credit."

Prosecutor Geoffrey Jones said that in the early hours of November 3 last year, staff at Club X, Charles Street, Cardiff, went into the lavatory where Ansell was acting suspiciously.

He was found to have on him a quantity of mephadrone and £50 in cash.

"He was detained and handed over to the police."

Ansell indicated that he worked as a disc jockey in Cardiff and Bristol. On his mobile phone were many texts indicating a background of drugs.

When arrested, said Mr Jones, he lied to the police claiming the drugs were for personal use and the £50 was dole money.

He later admitted he had been dealing for some months.

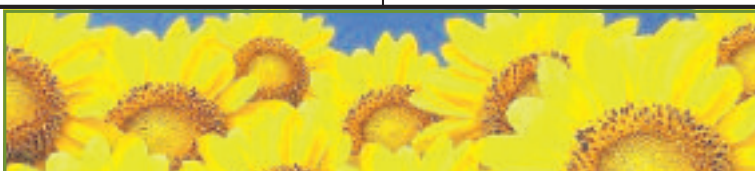
His solicitor, Adam Sharpe, said: "At night, he intended to sell four deals of the drug. What was seized was at the modest end of the scale."

"He has experienced great shame in committing the offence. Fortunately, he has a positive work ethic."

Mr Sharpe said his mother was enraged, disappointed and appalled at what he had done, and he had been severely reprimanded.

"He no longer takes drugs," said Mr Sharpe.

Ansell was also made subject to a supervision order for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work, to attend a substance misuse programme, and to pay costs of £750, plus a victim surcharge of £100. AJ SICLUNA



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'Bedroom tax' sparks debate

A PLAID CYMRU councillor in the Vale has criticised the Westminster Government's so-called 'bedroom tax', as figures show that a sizeable minority of households affected in the Vale include a disabled resident.

Plaid Cymru Coun Ian Johnson told The GEM that of the 650 households affected by the bedroom tax in the Vale, 308 include a recipient of the disability premium.

Coun Johnson claimed the Coalition was being 'heartless'.

He said: "These figures show up the bedroom tax for what it is - a smash and grab on some of the most vulnerable in society."

"Conservatives and Liberal Democrats should be ashamed of themselves."

"Our local MP is very keen to talk about the Welsh Government or the Vale Council, but not upon policies that he voted through at Westminster."

"This is a heartless and impractical policy which will save little money but creates difficulties for families who have little spare income to draw upon."

"Nearly half of those affected in the Vale receive the disability premium: £14 a week may not sound like much to some people, especially Conservative MPs, but £728 per year is a substantial amount extra to find."

"Just where are these households going to find additional income to spend on this?"

Some people argue that the "bedroom tax" is not a tax, but actually a welfare

transfer. Those under-occupying council or social housing - in terms of the number of bedrooms - don't have to pay the state money, but receive a smaller handout from taxpayers.

'SELECTIVE'
Local MP Alun Cairns said Coun Johnson's figures were "highly selective," and that he was failing to take into consideration families needing larger accommodation.

He explained: "Welfare reform is always difficult and it is about making the system fairer to all concerned."

"These figures are highly selective and we need to remember that there are five times more people on the housing waiting list here in the Vale that could be helped to be housed under the

changes. I know of one example where there is one person living in a four bed council house, but also of hundreds of families waiting for such accommodation."

"It is also a scandal that the level of new social housing build fell significantly in the years leading up to 2010 when there was a Plaid Cymru housing Minister."

"Many are not affected by the policy, because pensioners are excluded, as well as people with specific disability needs."

"I have received many calls from people worried about the policy, but when I look into their details, they are excluded as a result of the many exemptions. There is a lot of scaremongering going on and critics need to act responsibly."

"It is also worth noting that people on housing benefit that rent in the private sector don't receive payments for extra bedrooms. In order to be equitable, is Coun Johnson suggesting that these claimants also receive extra payments?"

He added: "To have any credibility, anyone who criticises this policy needs to explain where the money would come from to reverse such a change."

PUPILS ARE APPALLED BY DUMPED LITTER



The students with bags of rubbish collected from the pathways leading to Porthkerry Park.

VALEWAYS is a volunteer-based project for the maintenance, protection, preservation and promotion of public rights of way in the Vale.

As part of their personal social development 'community service' course, Barry year-11 students joined forces with the Valeways project on a 'walk and clear' morning in the local Millwood area.

The students collected six bags of rubbish from the pathways leading down to Porthkerry Park. The Valeways volunteers also entertained the boys with stories and local historical information along the route.

The students were amazed at the amount of litter left in an area of such beauty. And found it hard to understand how people can just drop litter.

PACT meetings

COURT PACT, Ilminster Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, May 30 at 6pm.

GIBBONS DOWN PACT, The Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry, June 4 at 10.30am.

PLYMOUTH PACT, Brockhill Community Centre, Penarth, June 5 at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Fairfield Primary School, June 12 at 6pm.

Local authors seeking votes

SULLY author Eileen Younghusband (91) has been shortlisted for The People's Book Prize, along with fellow author Terry Cooper.

Both published by Cardiff-based Candy Jar Books, 91-year-old Eileen's book *One Woman's War* has been shortlisted in the non-fiction category, while Cooper's *Kangazang! Star Stuff* is a finalist in the fiction category of the competition.

The People's Book Prize is a literary competition open to all published authors and judged solely by the

public. Eileen wrote her book to help raise the awareness of the fundamental work of the Filter Room during the Second World War. *One Woman's War* is a personal account of war as a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).

Kangazang! Star Stuff is the second book of the hilarious Kangazang! sci-fi trilogy.

Voting will remain open until the awards ceremony on May 29. Visit www.peoples-bookprize.com.

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Parliamentary lobbying has a positive (as well as a negative) side...

THERE are lots of concerns about lobbyists and their relationships with MPs, but I have never found people who lobby me have been inappropriate in their contact.

Most have sought to share information in the hope that I will be interested. I wish there was a filter system which would remove all of the emails I don't want, but many contain very useful information which is pertinent to issues of the day.

I thought I could give you some examples to show you the sort of information sent my way. A briefing from National Association of Probation Officers regarding the use of electronic tags gave facts and figures, which are helpful as we address proposed changes and privatisation of criminal justice.

The briefing allows further examination of a subject through Parliamentary Questions and research from the House of Commons Library.

At present, tagging orders last for six months, with up to 12 hours home incarceration per day. The coalition has increased the maximum length of the order to 12 months and increased the daily time on the tag to 16 hours, making it difficult to see how those tagged can either work or attend education.

The Government has also announced that they wish to see individuals under surveillance,

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.



either with the traditional ankle bracelet or through GPS satellite tracking for 24 hours a day.

It currently costs the taxpayer between £1,250 for a 90 day tag, or £1,500 for 120 days and only about a third involve visits to the offender.

The profit margins are very high. The annual revenue received by tagging companies currently exceeds £120 million and this seems set to rise to over £1 billion by 2015, when the new scheme goes ahead.

A parliamentary answer on May 14, 2012 (Hansard 106513) showed that the total amount paid to two companies, excluding payments made by the UK Border Agency, for 2011/12 was £54.6 million to Serco and a further £62.3 million for G4S.

The number of persons starting electronic tagging in any one year grew from 37,920 in 2002/3 to 115,870 in 2010/11. The average number of days that each offender is electronically tagged has averaged from between 65 and 68 for each of the last six years.

The total number of days that individuals are electronically monitored per year has doubled from four million to

nearly nine million over the past six year period (parliamentary answer 14 May 2012 – Hansard column 18W).

The Briefing highlighted frustrations probation staff and offenders have with tagging and the wider concerns for justice and the administration of court orders.

The examples included; the long delays after orders were made or individuals released from prison before the tags were fitted. In some instances the tags were not fitted at all and delays varied between three or four days to seven weeks.

Worryingly, there appeared to be confusion between probation and the private companies about who was responsible for a breach of a tagging order.

Most of this confusion occurred when the curfew tag was not attached to a probation supervision order.

Probation officers found that the tagging system tended not to work in rural or isolated areas and the private companies had to monitor the offenders by driving between offenders' homes to check where they were. The briefing claimed that companies reported often that the offenders were absent when they were in fact in their properties. My task is then to follow this up with conversations locally, extra research ahead of any debate.

In contrast, a Stroke Association briefing brought a report on the emotional impact of stroke. The report called 'Feeling Overwhelmed' highlighted how the emotional impact of a

stroke can be just as devastating as the physical.

The findings are based on a survey of 2,700 stroke survivors; 59 per cent reported feeling depressed; 67 per cent reported experiencing anxiety as a direct result of their stroke. 53 per cent had experienced difficulties in their personal relationships; 42 per cent said they felt abandoned after leaving hospital; 79 per cent said they had received no information or practical advice to help them cope with the emotional impact of stroke.

The report called for greater recognition of psychological and emotional support being made available, and the emotional needs to carers to be given greater consideration. Health is devolved in Wales to the Assembly, but I forwarded the report to a local consultant and asked if there is anything I can do to help improve services locally and will use it to ask questions of Heath ministers.

In total contrast, a report from Warwick business school gave me insight into how the financial crisis had badly affected the car industry, which is looking to the emerging markets for future growth. Ford is closing its Australian manufacturing operation because production costs are high and in-country demand is falling.

While cost and demand are important, so are the increasing skills and low wage costs of the emerging Far East economies as an attractive alternative to Australia. This has potential implications locally. There is no doubt in my mind that Ford will stay in Bridgend while we are part of the EU and their exports can access that wider market but what would happen if we left the EU is another issue. Again this is an issue I need to watch while also maintaining contact with Ford's management.

Each day I possibly receive up to 100 briefing documents, many are deleted especially if they seek to sell me products, some are for issues on which I have no engagement but many are filed in preparation for legislation coming before the Commons. Some are followed up with face to face meetings.

With the hectic pace of Westminster, insight into the possible consequences of legislation is vital in giving a rounded view of the legislation before us.

One change mooted this week is for post legislative scrutiny to see how effective legislation is at bringing the changes and improvements sought.

I look forward to that.

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bridgend-today.co.uk

Wild Llangan!

'Llangan goes wild' is the theme at the Llangan and St Mary Hill Community Hall today (Thursday, May 30) from 1pm-4pm, when Animalzone UK brings along live snakes and bugs for those brave enough to handle them.

There will also be the popular face painting, a cuddly toy safari, animal arts and crafts. The all-inclusive cost is £3 per child, with free entry for mums and dads.

Llanfest 4
FOLLOWING the out-



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is
Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd",
Llangan. (01656) 860303

standing success of the 2012 Llanfest, this year's event will take place again on the green at Fferm Goch, Llangan, on June 8 from 2pm-6pm.

During the day, visitors will be entertained with live music, many interesting craft and charity outlets, while children, as in previous years, will be catered for

with games and a bouncy castle.

Stall pitches are still available, the cost being £6 - but hurry, I am sure every available space will be taken.

Hopefully, the weather will be kind, and this year's event will be as successful as last year.

For further information, contact Mel on 07523493648.

Young at Heart
THE club has been in the doldrums lately, with the wet, cold weather, and daily

COFFEE MORNING

THE annual Age Concern Cardiff and Vale coffee morning will be held on Monday, June 3 at Llantian Hall, Llantwit Major, between 10am and 12 noon, to raise funds for the charity's Christmas party.

Tickets are £1.50 and include tea, coffee, biscuits (plus top ups), available from the Age Concern office, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major (01446 795549).

Stalls include home-made cakes, plants, bric-a-brac and a raffle.

To support the event, contact co-ordinator Gary Bohm (01446 795549).

news of unhappy events taking place in this country.

So it was somewhat uplifting to hear the good news of the birth of club member Sylvia Mordica's twelfth great-grandchild, a girl Thia May. We can only hope Thia will grow up in a much more happy and peaceful world.

Potholes
THE potholes near St Canna's on the Llangan to Treoes Road, have been filled in and no longer cause

a problem to human or horse.

Allotments
A few days ago, I had a peek to see how work was progressing on the Treoes allotments and was surprised to see several people busy with their individual plots.

There is still work to be carried out, and I understand a tree will be planted close to the boundary wall of Saron Chapel, and also a seat for those wishing to meditate and rest awhile.

Carers Week

DURING Carers Week (June 10 - 15)
Crossroads Care is holding a coffee morning/garden party in 'Greyholme,' Nottage Village, Porthcawl CF36 3SS on June 14 at 10.30am which is open to everyone.

Books, cakes, plants, bric a brac, raffle with several prizes, will be available, plus the '100 Club' draw with cash prizes. Tickets £1 from the office or on the door.

On Saturday, June 15, it will hold a fun walk/run from the Hi Tide, Porthcawl and then along the Promenade. (Registration from 9.30am.)

Crossroads Care Bridgend County, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3HG; tel 01656 784100. Email: bridgend.county@crossroads.org.uk; website: www.crossroadsbridgend.org.uk.



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Out and About with The GEM

Waverley is back in Vale!

WAVERLEY, the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, is sailing from Penarth Pier for just three weeks this summer.

Cruises begin on June 5, when *Waverley* arrives direct from her annual overhaul in Scotland.

Owned by a registered charity, *Waverley* is beautifully restored with spectacular steam engines, promenade decks, self-service restaurant, lounges and bars.

She brings back to the Bristol Channel happy memories for thousands of local people of the beautiful White Funnel Fleet paddle steamers *Bristol Queen* and *Cardiff Queen*.

For all who have never before sailed aboard a great paddle steamer a cruise aboard *Waverley* is an exciting and enchanting experience.

Trips include visits to Minehead in west Somerset, with time ashore for a cream tea; the seaside at Ilfracombe; afternoon cruises round Flat Holm and Steep Holm; a day

trip to the Somerset sea-side at Weston; and a Saturday evening Showboat with jazz band on board.

Special days include trips to the west Somerset Steam Railway and on Sunday, June 9, the National Trust Island of Lundy with the annual service in the island church of St Helena.

There are special reductions on most cruises for senior citizens, all children under 18 are half fare, and all children under five travel completely free.

Copies of *Waverley's* full programme and tickets for all cruises are available online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk, from Cardiff Tourist Information Centre or Cardiff Bus offices.

To book by credit card call 0845 130 4647 (or passengers can buy their tickets on board *Waverley* when they sail).

Free programmes are also available from the kiosk on Penarth Pier and from the Silver Star Decorating and DIY store on Barry Docks.

Yacht club open day
BARRY Yacht Club will be holding an open day on Saturday June 1, when members of the public will be able to try sailing or rowing, as guests on members' boats.

No experience necessary, but booking is essential, and it will be a great day for experiencing the pleasure of being on the sea.

There will be a family barbecue and time to chat to members about what the club offers, including a varied programme of all-year-round social activities. The day starts at 11am.

For booking and further information, please email Maxine bysecretary@hotmail.co.uk or phone Glynis, social secretary, on 07815 129684. See us at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk.

Women's Trail

AS part of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival, a walk will cover most of the Barry Women's Trail on Saturday, June 1, starting at 9.30am at Barry train station.

The first part of the walk will cover approximately five miles, at which point anyone on the walk can choose to finish.

The second half of the walk will cover a further six miles, ending back at Barry train station.

Sensible walking shoes are needed, along with waterproof clothing in case of inclement weather, also water and refreshments.

Mixed media
KNITTED trees and cars covered with colourful wool, juxtaposed with traditional watercolours and 3D photography feature at Barry Arts Festival in the Art Central gallery until Saturday (June 1).

The diverse display of art works ranges from traditional watercolour painting and digital photography to 3D photography and 'yarn-bombing', where items are covered in coloured wool.

The official opening last Friday included a book launch, signing and talk with Barry-based author and chair of the Arts Council of Wales, Dai Smith, who has just published his first novel, *Dream On*, and Professor Tony Curtis.

The exhibition is open from Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am-4pm.

Nursery tea for charity
THE annual Marie Curie Blooming Great Tea Party is taking place at Fun Foundations Day Nursery, Cowbridge, on Saturday, June 1, at 12.30pm in the Vintage Tea Room.

Selection of sandwiches, cake, scones and

WHAT'S ON...

tea, with donations taken for Marie Curie.

There will be two sitings, 12.30pm or 1.30pm.

To find out more, visit www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk.

Valeways festival

VALEWAYS holds its fourth Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival from May 31 to June 2 with varied walks as planned.

For further details or to book your walk(s), call 01446 749000, email walkfest@valeways.org.uk, follow it on Twitter @vogwalkfest or visit www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk.

Valeways walks

ON Thursday, June 6 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Rhose railway station car park.

On Monday, June 10 at 7pm, 'Seven Counties View' starting at Peterston Super Ely at the footbridge near the Sportsmans Rest.

On Tuesday, June 11 at 7pm, 'Welsh St Donats/Hensol Forest, starting at Hensol Forest car park.

On Wednesday, June 12 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers (Barry Hub) meet at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

Also on Wednesday, June 12 at 10.30am, 'Llantwit to the Beach', starting at Llantwit Major railway station car park.

Coffee appeal
THE annual Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale coffee morning is being held on Monday, June 3, at

Llantwit Hall, Llantwit Major, between 10am and 12 midday, to raise funds to support the annual Christmas party.

Tickets are £1.50, available from the Age Concern office Commercial St, Llantwit Major 01446 795549 or pay at the door.

Stalls include home made cakes, plants, bric a brac, and a raffle.

Sgwrs Cymraeg

MAE grwp sgwrsio Cymraeg yn cwrd ddydd lau olaf pob mis o 8.30yn yn Glwb Cymdeithasol y West End, St Nicholas Road, Y Barri; grwp croesawgar a llac.

P'un a ydych yn rhugl, dysgu neu ddim ond eisiau i ymarfer mae croeso i bawb. Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch ag Anna ar 07931849258.

Welsh chat

A WELSH language and chat group meets on the last Thursday of every month from 8.30pm at the West End Social Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry; welcoming and easygoing group.

Whether you are fluent, learning, or just want to brush up, all are welcome.

For more information, contact Anna on 07931849258.

Sunday buses

A NEW Sunday bus service has been launched by the Vale Council to improve access to the Heritage Coastal Path.

The G7 Summer Sunday Service will run from June 2 to

September 1 and the Greenlinks bus route includes Cowbridge, Llandow Caravan Park, Colhuw Beach, Llantwit Major, St Donats, Marcross and Nash Point.

It also meets selected trains at Llantwit Major Station, subject to departure times.

The service costs £2 for a single, £3 for an all-day pass and is free for Welsh concessionary pass holders. Pre-booking is not required.

Tax help

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer free professional advice for those on a restricted income, at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1RB on June 3 from 10am until midday. No appointment is necessary. Contact 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Council grants

BARRY Town Council will be holding its annual grants presentation evening in the Mayor's Parlour at the Council Offices, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, on Wednesday, June 5, at 7pm.

Cheques will be presented by the Mayor, Coun Claire Curtis.

Charity quiz

BARRY committee of Cancer Research UK Cymru is holding a quiz on Wednesday, June 5 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, at 8pm. Entrance fee is £2 per person, payable at the door or on the night.

Church fete

THE St Cadocs Church (Old Village) summer fete will be opened on Saturday, June 15 at 2pm, by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale. Bouncy Castle, games for young and old, face painting, stalls, prize draw, Barry Brass Band. All under cover. Free admission.

'Van about Town' winner

THE winner of The GEM's 'Van About Town' wordsearch competition was Mrs SA Farrier, of Rhose Point.

A £20 cheque is winging its way to Mrs Farrier.

• Keep an eye out for more great GEM competitions in the months ahead.

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Fast, Furious – and ludicrously fun!

THERE is an unwritten rule that any film franchise which introduces Dwayne Johnson to the cast, improves said franchise by 87 per cent.

It worked for *GI Joe*, banishing memories of the atrocious first film, while his appearance as Luke Hobbs in *Fast Five* made that film, for my money, the best of the franchise.

He returns in *Fast & Furious 6*, which sees him reunited with Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel), Brian O'Conner (Paul Walker), and their crew, when they are forced to team up to take down mercenary Shaw (Luke Evans), a mission made more personal for the pair with the reappearance of Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) who is seemingly helping Shaw...

The success of *Fast Five* in 2011 was a mas-

sive surprise, delivering a nitro-boost to a franchise that was in danger of running out of petrol and being taken for scrap.

The main reason for that was Dwayne Johnson, who really brought the film to life, making his return here a most welcome one; and while *Fast & Furious 6* sees Johnson take a less prominent role, it doesn't affect the overall quality, delivering thrills, spills, clunky dialogue and even clunkier acting – but still hugely entertaining.

Six films in and the franchise has no interest in reinventing the wheel; instead it sticks resolutely to what has made it successful in the first place and amping up these elements. With director Justin Lin (departing after this instalment) and screenwriter Chris Morgan on their fourth *Fast & Furious* collaboration, the pair have their jobs



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

down to a fine art.

For Morgan, it's writing dialogue that splutters like a G reg Skoda and a story that ticks the genre boxes with aplomb, but while it should be a source of criticism, somehow it fits perfectly within the tone of the genre.

It's a similar story with Lin's direction, where subtlety is a naughty word and the more flesh, testosterone and vehicular carnage on show the better, but his direction plays up the conventions of what you would expect and never tries to be too clever.

He is also capable of crafting an impressive set-piece, and this film has three of them; a car chase around the busy streets of London (seemingly seen through the eyes of Austin Powers), a tank chase that just keeps getting more out of control and a climax involving an airplane

that caps the film off in high-octane style. There are also some hard-hitting fist fights, with top honours going to Gina Carano and Michelle Rodriguez's tube station scrap that would make the strongest man flinch.

What's less impressive is the acting, which has never been the franchise's strong point; Vin Diesel growls his way through it as you would expect, Paul Walker delivers his lines as if channeling a robot, and while Johnson is his usual charismatic self, the remainder of the cast won't be troubling the end-of-year awards.

But, to be fair, that isn't the point of this film; the point of *Fast & Furious 6* is to deliver wall-to-wall action, spectacle over substance, and it does that incredibly well, a unashamed genre film that delivers all you want.

VERDICT: Ludicrous fun, *Fast & Furious 6* makes no bones about doing what it does best, delivering action and spectacle with a knowing sense of reckless abandon. The acting is weak, the script predictable, but Justin Lin's epic direction makes this not just a worthwhile addition to the franchise, but also a grandiose blockbuster in its own right. **Recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Fast Five* (2009), *Gone In Sixty Seconds* (2000).

Winner's talk to Scott Society

DAVID FARROW has told the Cardiff-based Captain Scott Society about his adventures in Kurdistan, where, as a member of the Cambridge University mountaineering team, he attempted climbs on a number of previously unconquered peaks.

Each year, the Scott Society expeditions committee selects its 'Spirit of Adventure' award winner from a wide range of appli-

cants. The award is worth £2,000, although some winners in the past have commented that it is the prestige associated with the award, rather than the money, which counts most.

The society looks in particular for a 'first' and the award is available to any individual or group undertaking an adventurous pursuit that exemplifies Captain Scott's spirit of adventure.

Contact either Jack Wright (expeditions secretary) on 02920 754869, or Julian Rosser (chairman) on 02920 626715.

Volunteer befrienders

THE Community Companions Befriending Scheme is looking for volunteer befrienders, particularly in the Porthcawl area and the Ogmore and Garw valleys.

The Big Lottery-funded Community Companions scheme for over-50s is co-ordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and aims to match volunteer befrienders with people over 50 who are, for whatever reason, isolated and lonely.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400 or email bavo@bavo.org.uk.

Art exhibition

FORMER Barry boy Arnold Lowrey is holding an exhibition of his recent paintings at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay until June 2.

Entrance is free, and he will be demonstrating water colour painting on most days. Further details on 02920 891482, or allowrey@freezone.co.uk.

Glamorgan Young Farmers' rally takes a patriotic theme

Pictures by HEATHER MARCH

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs' rally was held on Pencoe campus, where all the competitions this year featured 'Best of British' or a Celtic theme.

Some Glamorgan winners now go forward to the Royal Welsh Show.



Making child's play equipment.



What are they doing?



Wick's Celtic Warriors.



Maendy's Celtic Warrior.

Walking festival in Vale

THE 4th Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival takes place from May 31 – June 2, with 21 different walks.

On Friday May 31, at 10am, Valeways' walk leader Tim Williams has teamed up with Dr Ffion Reynolds, Cadw's public engagement and Welsh language manager for a circular walk passing through St Nicholas and around St Lythans.

Along the way we will take in the ancient burial chambers of Tinkinswood and St Lythans.

On June 1 at 2pm, join storyteller Katie Jones for a magical walk around Cowbridge's secret spots, to discover that stories arise from the most unexpected places. This walk will take place as part of the Vale's annual Waking Festival, will be an opportunity to hear ancient Welsh tales and songs bubble up from the River Thaw, and will climb upwards to Mount Ida, the 'Mountain of the Goddess', in Cowbridge. For further information, contact www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk.

THRILLER SET IN VALE

A NEW thriller set in the Vale of Glamorgan has been released by Y Lolfa publishers.

Blood Month by William Vaughan, is a detective story set in a fictional boys' boarding school in Llanover, where a young teacher chances upon the body of the unpopular headmaster.

It is the author's first attempt at an adult novel following the publication of three novels for children and young adults. Born and educated in Cardiff, William Vaughan has taught English and history at schools in Leicestershire and Cardiff.



MONDAY

Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
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(next to Bassett Park)
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Cwm Talwg Pub
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sewern Avenue
Wiggy - 07970 450694

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United
Church, Elfed Avenue
Nia - 07793 885581

TUESDAY

Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity
Presbyterian Church,
Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Llantwit Major
9.30am
Catholic Church,
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Barry RFC
7.30pm
Merthyr Dyfan Road
Teresa - 07889 828401

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Illtyd
Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm

The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium
Centre, Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadroxton
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY

Barry - 5.30pm
Highlight Park
Community Centre, Barry
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Dinas Powys
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming
pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wynham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Little Shop of Calm,
Westgate
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FRIDAY
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Land lease could ensure success for both Bluebirds and the Vale

IWOULD like to begin my column this month by congratulating Cardiff City Football Club on their promotion to the Premier League.

This is really good news for the club and their supporters, many of whom live in the Vale.

I have written to the club congratulating them on their success, and have since met with the club officials to discuss how the council and the club can work together in the future.

At that time, we discussed them setting up a Vale training ground and facilities near Hensol and agreed a way forward.

As a result, I pre-

sented a report to the Vale cabinet, who agreed to council-owned land being leased to the club to provide those facilities, subject to it going through the usual council procedures, and also subject to any planning approval that will be required.

The report set out our joint ambition to lease around 40 acres of council land to the club, which will allow the club to begin work on providing a Vale based state-of-the-art training facility and training pitches.

This will provide a long term base of operations for the Cardiff City FC professionals and senior academy squads. I am confident that this will be a success story for both of our organi-

sations and look forward to working closely with the football club, its management and supporters.

BARRY BLOW

On the subject of football, I was shocked and saddened to hear of the demise of the much loved Barry Town football club, when the owner withdrew the first team from Division One of the Welsh League, apparently without warning.

This is a real blow to football in Barry and I hope that the Barry Town supporters' committee can resurrect the situation, so that we can have a new football team as soon as possible.

When we took control of the council last year, we met with the Barry Town support-

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

ers' committee and had very constructive talks with them.

If we can assist, in any way that is open to us, we would be happy to do so, particularly as only last month the council agreed the appointment of Barry Town FC supporters' club, as primary user for the playing of football

at Jenner Park for the 2013/2014 season.

At that time, we believed that they would be playing this season and next.

I hope that before the next season begins, the Barry Town supporters' committee, which has actually been running the teams (and not the owner) can come to an

agreement with the FAW and the Welsh League to continue to play football at Jenner Park for years to come. I wish them all success in achieving their ambitions.

FOOD BANK
In relation to other matters, the Vale council has agreed to assist the Vale food bank to collect items for distribution to those in food poverty.

A donation box has been placed in the reception area of the civic offices in Barry, to provide a drop-off point for those wishing to contribute.

I hope that this will be successful, albeit regrettably that we have to have such a scheme in this day and age. This is yet another sign of the recession and the

impact of the Westminster Government's welfare reforms.

ISLAND ROAD

On a pressing issue, I am hoping that after meetings between Welsh Government officials and the Waterfront developers that some progress will be made to deliver another road to Barry Island.

I hope my previous interference has sparked some life into obtaining the road, but only time will tell.

Although by the time this column is read we will have had another Bank Holiday, I hope that there will not have been a recurrence of the congestion in and around Barry Island, as was the case recently.

It was clear that the

fatality blocking off Porthcawl caused extra traffic at our seaside resorts and that every facility was at capacity.

Although plans had been put in place, problems occurred; therefore, as a precaution, we are planning to put in place new traffic management arrangements - and have further discussions with the police to try to get more officers available over the holiday period.

I am hopeful that new arrangements can be put in place and that it will be successful, not only for the visitors, but also businesses.

Finally, I hope everyone had a good bank holiday weekend wherever they were.



LET'S RAISE A GLASS TO WELSH WINE WEEK

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THERE was a time when the Continentals ruled the roost in wine production, but now Welsh producers are making their mark too.

Many of the country's 17 vineyards are opening their gates to the public this during Welsh Wine Week, from May 25 to June 2.

Vineyards are holding activities and special promotions, including tours and wine tastings.

Supported by the Welsh Government, the vineyard owners have produced a Wine Trail Wales leaflet to encourage wine tourism and launched a new website - www.winetrail-wales.co.uk - and social media pages on Facebook and Twitter (@WinetrailWales) to raise the profile of the blossoming industry.

To find out more details, visit the website or social media pages to find the full programme of Welsh Wine Week.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Food Alun Davies said: "It is encouraging to see producers working together collectively to form a Welsh Vineyard Association.

"In terms of quality and potential, Welsh wine is certainly making a name for itself at home and abroad."

Nowadays, many of the pubs and country inns throughout the Vale and Bridgend stock Welsh wines as well as Continental ones.

With the summer here at last, now is the time to get out and enjoy our local pubs and restaurants - and sample some of the great ales and wines produced locally.

Local eateries and pubs are doing their best to make dining out during the day or evening an affordable experience with lots of special offers - sometimes for children, two or three courses for a set price, and well-priced Sunday lunches.

So now is the time! Take advantage of the

good weather, and go out and make the most of what our local pubs and restaurants have on offer this summer, and try out a Welsh wine too!



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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SILUNA

Judge says man's interest in computer images was 'nauseating'

A 65-YEAR-OLD man has been sentenced to a three-year community order at Cardiff Crown Court, for having pornographic pictures of children on his computer.

Alun Samuel, of Greenways, Porthcawl, was told by Judge Stephen Hopkins QC that his interest in such images was nothing less than "nauseating".

Samuel had been convicted by Vale Magistrates of one charge of possessing indecent images of children, and 12 of making indecent images of children.

Prosecutor Martin Kelly said the offences came to light when officers from the South Wales Public Protection Unit seized the computer belonging to Samuel.

There were 79 indecent images – 48 at level one, three at level three, 28 at level four. The most serious level is five.

Samuel was arrested and admitted accessing the indecent images.

He said they had "popped up" and had become an obsession.

"He expressed extreme remorse," said Mr Kelly.

Samuel's counsel, Alex Greenwood, said: "He was full and frank at the earliest opportunity. He has lost his impeccable character and will have to live with this for the rest of his life."

He was contemplating moving from the area.

Mr Greenwood said he was so shocked when the police arrived, he had to be taken to hospital and was receiving medication for a heart condition.

"He is under no illusion as to the seriousness of his position."

He said the utter humiliation of the case was a substantial punishment in itself.

The Judge said hitherto Samuel had led a blameless life.

The Judge said that as was his duty he saw some of the images and one involved a child of no more than four.

"Any normal person would find these images distressing. Each separate photo is a separate victim."

He said people who viewed them perpetuated the trade of the damage caused to young people.

Samuel was ordered to attend a sex offender programme course, and ordered to register as a sex offender for five years.

He was also banned for life from working with children, and the Judge ordered the forfeiture and the destruction of the computer.

The Judge also ordered a pair of binoculars found in Samuel's home be forfeited and destroyed. He was also ordered to pay £340 costs.

Judge tells jealous lover to 'grow up'

A JEALOUS lover who beat up a student has been sentenced to 12 months in a young offender institution, suspended for a year, and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Callum Wingren (19), a £300-a-week scaffolder, of Shakespeare Avenue, Penarth, was told by Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones: "You need to grow up."

Wingren had been convicted by Cardiff Magistrates of inflicting grievous bodily harm and committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Geoffrey Jones said the teenage student travelled by train from Cadroxton to Bridgend College. A girl student, the girlfriend of the defendant, struck up a friendship with him.

"All that occurred was occasional verbal flirting."

Wingren sent him a text message saying: "Touch my girlfriend again, and I'll kill you. I'll find out where you live." He also said he would "break his legs, stamp on his head and kill him".

In a premeditated attack, said Mr Jones, the defendant waited to confront him in a car park, punched him to the left side of his face, punched him in both eyes, picked him up and threw him on the bonnet of a car, while delivering 15 blows.

He picked up the injured man's mobile phone and threw it away.

The teenager was taken to the University Hospital of Wales with cuts and bruises, numbness to the face and a cheekbone fracture.

In a victim impact statement, the injured person said he had to give up sport for three weeks, was on a restricted diet and was fearful of going out.

He no longer travels by train, and he said his friends and family thought he had changed.

Mr Jones said he had also received counselling.

"The attack has shattered his confidence and affected his personality," said Mr Jones.

Wingren claimed to the police that the youth

had thrown the first punch.

His solicitor, Aubrey Samson, said: "To say that he is deeply embarrassed and remorseful is an understatement."

"He believes the victim's friendship had gone too far, and he believed he could sort things out. If he could turn the clock back, he would."

"He used only his fists, and no weapons."

"He hopes to have a trial for Wales under-20 rugby team. He works hard and plays hard. He has made one mistake, and will not make another one."

The Judge said he had no right whatsoever to beat up someone who talked to his girlfriend.

The Judge added: "Keep your fists to yourself. What you did to that young man was unforgivable."

He was ordered to pay the victim £1,250 compensation, costs of £750 and a victim surcharge of £100.

The Judge also made a restraining order preventing the defendant having contact with the victim for two years.

Women sentenced for a series of drug offences

TWO young women broke down in tears in the dock at Cardiff Crown Court while being sentenced for a series of drug offences.

Samantha Herbert (21) of Mackworth Street, Bridgend, admitted supplying cannabis, and possessing drugs with intent to supply. She was made subject to a community order involving 150 hours unpaid work.

Dionne Howe (20) of the same address, admitted to supplying cannabis, possessing drugs with intent to supply and offering to supply drugs.

She was sentenced to eight months in a young offenders' institution, suspended for 18 months, ordered to carry out 220 hours unpaid work and made subject to a supervision order for 18 months.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said: "You are two young women who realise you have ended up in serious trouble. Distribution of drugs is regarded seriously by the court, and normally there is a sentence of imprisonment."

He said he wanted them to understand how close they had come to going to prison. But, he said, the defendants had pulled themselves together, and hopefully the matter would be put behind them.

For many years, said the Judge, he had seen the destitution and terrible effects caused by drugs.

Prosecutor Jeremy Jenkins said the offences came to light last July when police went to an address in

Cowbridge Road, Bridgend.

There they found scales and a quantity of the Class A drug MDMA.

There was also a quantity of cannabis and cash of £200.

Howe later admitted supplying cannabis to friends. She also said she used cannabis and on occasion Herbert had delivered it to her.

The court heard she and Herbert had purchased MDMA for £200, and offered to supply it but not for gain.

Mr Jenkins said it was difficult to separate the role of each defendant, but each played a significant part in its distribution and sale.

Meirion Davies, for Howe, said: "She is an intelligent woman who has had problems. She is in absolute terror of going into custody."

"Luckily, she has pulled herself together and there is now a volte face. She is now of minimal risk of harm to the public because she has been pulled up short."

He said she worked in a management role and realised she had "made a complete ass of herself".

Dean Pullin, for Herbert, said she once worked for a law firm and possessed many attractive qualities.

"From the outset, there was complete co-operation. Hers was a lesser role, and she was mortified to find herself before the court."

He described her as "bright, but criminally naive".

Mr Pullin said she had enough about her to move on.

Brothers sentenced for a 'disgraceful incident' of affray

TWO brothers who took part in an affray in Barry were sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court.

Robert Avient (22) of Miskin Street, Barry, was jailed for 10 months and his 24-year-old brother Michael Avient, suspended to eight months' imprisonment, suspended for a year and ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work.

He was also made subject to an electronically-tagged three-month curfew from 6.30pm-6am.

Both men admitted a charge of affray.

Robert Avient also admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on Cenyet Ulug and Michael Avient admitted causing actual bodily harm to Jamie Jones.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said the parties involved had exchanged words, after which there was a fight.

The two victims were assaulted, one was hit over the head with a bottle.

The brothers later surrendered themselves to the police, and blamed the injured party for what had happened.

Mr Ulug had 12 stitches put in a head wound,

and a number of teeth were chipped. Mr Jones suffered cuts and bruises.

Robert Avient was said to have convictions for assaulting the police, and for a public order offence.

His brother had no previous convictions.

Claire Pickthall for Robert Avient, said something happened to make him to behave as inappropriately as he did.

"It is something he bitterly regrets. Such behaviour has affected the rest of his life."

"He is not stupid, but understands the seriousness of what has occurred."

"He is utterly terrified of what might happen to him, and in front of me he broke down in tears."

Byron Broadstock for Michael Avient, said he had a clean record, his partner was expecting a child, and he was at a low risk of re-offending.

"The offences were very much out of character. The injuries suffered by Mr Jones were minor."

Judge Niclas Parry said: "This was a disgraceful incident of drunken violence involving the use of a weapon."

Robert Avient, he said, over-reacted, struck his victim over the head with a bottle, which smashed.

Valeways get 'tidy' boost

VALEWAYS have been awarded £300 worth of National Garden Centre vouchers by environmental charity Keep Wales Tidy.

The vouchers will enable Valeways to improve the quality of their local environment by undertaking practical environmental projects.

The Keep Wales Tidy Garden Centre Voucher Scheme has been made possible with funding from the Welsh

Government and will be used by community groups to help cover the costs of tools, equipment and material as well as native plants, shrubs and seeds.

For more information on the Keep Wales Tidy National Garden Centre Scheme or to get contact details of your local project officer, contact Keep Wales Tidy on 029 2025 6767, email group.funding@keepwalestidy.org or visit website www.keepwalestidy.org.



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**The Parade, Barry - £299,995**

Traditional three double bedroom semi detached property with panoramic views across the old harbour. Situated in the Knap area. Porch, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility area, two bathrooms. Driveway. Garage. Gardens to front and rear. Gas CH. Wooden DG sash style windows. Walking distance of bus stop and train station.

**Glen Mavis Way, Barry - £159,950**

Three bedroom semi detached property situated on a sought after development in the north of Barry. Hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and separate wc to first floor. DG and electric storage heating. Well maintained gardens to front and rear. Driveway with off road parking for 3/4 vehicles leading to detached single garage.

**Devon Avenue, Barry - £135,000**

Three bedroom semi detached property situated in the heart of Barry. Hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Bathroom to 1st floor, separate wc. Bathroom providing storage, utility area and wc. DG. Gas CH. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Single detached garage. Partial far reaching views of Bristol Channel. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Barry Road, Barry - £99,950**

Traditional bay fronted, mid terrace. Situated in the heart of Barry. Hallway, lounge, through dining room. Kitchen, rear lobby. Downstairs bathroom. First floor wc. Gas CH. upvc DG. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden. Close to local amenities and bus routes. Walking distance of Holton Road shopping centre. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Queen Street, Barry - £109,950**

Three bedroom traditional mid terrace property situated in West End of Barry. Open porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Downstairs bathroom, upvc DG. Electric storage heaters. Enclosed rear courtyard. Close to local amenities, shops and train station with links to Bridgend, Penarth and Cardiff. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Merthyr Street, Barry - £110,000**

Traditional two bedroom end terrace, benefiting from loft room. Situated in the heart of Barry. Hallway, lounge through dining room. Modern fitted kitchen. Bathroom to first floor. Generous master bedroom. DG. Gas CH. Enclosed rear courtyard. Close to local amenities including shops and train station. Ideal FTB or investment. EPC=C.

**Beryl Road, Barry - £124,995**

Two bedroom mid terrace property. Heart of Barry. Entrance hallway, lounge/dining room. Fitted kitchen. Family room, conservatory. Two bedrooms, bathroom, shower room and separate wc to 1st floor. Gas CH. upvc DG. Enclosed rear garden. (Property is on the footprint of a three bedroom). Close to shops and parks. No chain.

**Fern Drive, Barry - £129,500**

Three bedroom semi detached property on modern development in West End of Barry. Hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room. Shower room to first floor. upvc DG. Gas CH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway. Single garage with power and lighting. Close to local shop, schools, college, hospital and bus routes. EPC rating D. No chain

**Rhoose Road, Rhoose - £141,950**

Three double bedroom mid terrace property on a no through road in village of Rhoose. Ideal family home. Newly fitted carpets to bedrooms, hall, stairs and landing. Comprises hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining room, utility area. Bathroom to 1st floor. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Side access. No chain.

**St Paul's Avenue, Barry - £154,950**

Traditional bay fronted, three bedroom, end terrace. West End of Barry. Porch, hallway, lounge through sitting room, dining room, kitchen with appliances to remain. Downstairs wc. Bathroom, office/nursery/dressing room to 1st floor. Gas CH. upvc DG. Enclosed rear garden. Single garage. Walking distance of schools, shops. EPC Rating E

**Harbour Road, Barry - £194,995**

Three bedroom traditional mid terrace bay fronted. West End of Barry. many original features. Porch, living room/dining room, kitchen/diner, bathroom and loft room with velux windows. Short walking distance to Romilly school and shops. Barry train station with links to Cardiff, Penarth, beaches and parks. Ideal family home.

**Brookfield Avenue, Barry - £229,950**

Four/five bedroom split level property set on generous corner plot. Cul de sac location. Entrance hallway, bedroom four further reception room and bedroom five to ground floor. Cloakroom, lounge, dining room and kitchen to lower ground floor. Master bedroom with en suite shower. Two bedrooms and family bathroom to 1st floor. upvc DG. Gas CH. Viewing essential

**Somerset Road, Barry - £275,000**

Three/four double bedroom detached dormer. Generous plot with views across Barry and Bristol Channel. Porch, outer hall, entrance hallway, cloakroom, lounge, 2 bedroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen. Utility and storage room to the ground floor. Two bedrooms and bathroom to 1st floor. Gas CH. Gardens to front, side and rear. Driveway.

**Colcot Road, Barry - £126,950**

Three bedroom semi detached. Central Barry. Porch, entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner. Shower room/utility room. Downstairs wc. Gas CH. upvc DG. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway with off road parking for numerous vehicles. Single detached garage. On bus route and walking distance of schools, college, shop and hospital. EPC Rating D. Offered for sale with no chain.

**The Heathers, Barry - £165,000**

Four bedroom detached property. Off Claude Road, West End of Barry. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room through to kitchen. Conservatory. Downstairs wc. Family bathroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Rear garden. Driveway with off road parking. Integral garage. Close to schools, college and bus routes. Within easy access of Cardiff and M4 corridor. EPC Rating C/D. Offer for sale with no chain.

**Heol Gwerthyd, Barry - £202,950**

Four double bedroom detached, set on generous plot on Penocentre Village development. East End of Barry. Entrance hallway. Lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room. Utility room. Downstairs wc. Family bathroom and ensuite to master bedroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway with parking. Single garage. EPC Rating D. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Hawthorn Road, Barry - £209,950**

Three bedroom detached. Situated in West End of Barry. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room. Fitted kitchen. Downstairs wc. Family bathroom to 1st floor. Gas CH. upvc DG. Driveway for 2/3 vehicles. Detached single garage, gardens to front and rear. Close to Romilly Primary School. Easy access to local amenities, public transport. EPC Rating D. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Gladstone Road, Barry - £219,950**

Four double bedroom semi detached. Heart of Barry. Panoramic views across Barry Waterfront. Porch, hallway, lounge, sitting room, family room, fitted kitchen. Master bedroom with en suite and built in storage. Three further double bedrooms. bathroom, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Enclosed rear garden. Hard standing. Walking distance to local amenities. Viewing advised. EPC Rating D/D

**Pontypridd Road, Barry - £249,950**

Two/Three bedroom detached bungalow. West End of Barry. Entrance hallway. Lounge, dining room/bedroom three. Kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, large bathroom. Cloakroom. Loft room. upvc DG. Gas CH. Gardens to front, side and rear. off road parking for 4/5 vehicles. Walking distance of shops, doctors surgery, primary school and bus routes. Close to Porthkerry park.

**Westward Rise, Barry - £252,950**

Four bedroom detached on large plot in Garden Suburb, West End of Barry overlooking Porthkerry woods. Entrance hallway, downstairs wc. Lounge, dining room. Fitted kitchen and utility room. Family bathroom to first floor. Gas CH. DG. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway with off road parking leading to single garage. Walking distance of Porthkerry Country park. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Port Road East, Barry - £319,995**

Well presented and maintained to high standard. Detached four bedroom 'true' bungalow. North of Barry. Plot approx one third of an acre. Hallway, lounge, dining room, utility room, utility area, kitchen, bathroom, upvc DG. Gas CH. Driveway with off road parking for numerous vehicles. Large enclosed garden with patio area with views across the Vale of Glamorgan and farmland. Viewing essential.

**Porth y Castell, Barry - £459,000**

West End of Barry with views across the Bristol Channel. Three reception rooms. Four bedrooms, large reception hall, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, bathroom, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Oak flooring throughout ground floor with exception of kitchen. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway to double garage. In need of some updating. EPC Rating E. Offered for sale with no chain.

**Howard Court, Barry - £104,950**

Well presented two bedroom apartment situated on popular Pontypridd Road in the West End of Barry. Accommodation comprising: Hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen. Bathroom. Separate wc. upvc DG. Gas CH. Benefiting from a garage to the rear of building in a block, offered for sale with no chain.

**Howard Court, Barry - £124,995**

Opportunity to acquire a two bedroom first floor apartment, set in block of four in West End of Barry. maintained to high standard. Entrance hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms. Good size modern bathroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Communal gardens. Garage. Off road parking. Close to local bus routes, shops and cafes. EPC Rating D.

**Blenheim Close, Barry - £174,950**

Three bedroom semi detached on the Highlight Park development, North of Barry. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen. Family bathroom to 1st floor. Gas CH. upvc DG. Enclosed rear garden with areas laid to lawn and decking. Driveway leading to garage with power, lighting and plumbing for washing machine. Close to supermarket.

**Merthyr Dyfan, Barry - £199,950**

Two bedroom detached bungalow. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, bathroom and kitchen. DG. Gas CH. Enclosed rear garden. Garden shed. Greenhouse. Cotswold stone providing low maintenance to front garden. Driveway for four cars. Garage/workshop. Viewing essential to appreciate property. Easy access to Cardiff, M4 corridor and airport. EPC rating C/C

**Cilgnt y Mellion, Rhoose Point - £219,950**

Four bedroom detached. On the popular Rhoose Point development. Hallway, lounge, dining room, large conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room. Utility room. Downstairs wc. Family bathroom and ensuite to master bedroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway with off road parking. Single garage. Stunning coastal walks. EPC Rating D. No chain.

**Westward Rise, Barry - £345,000**

Four double bedroom detached. Set in cul de sac in Garden Suburb, backing onto Porthkerry Woodlands. Three reception rooms. Conservatory. Newly fitted kitchen. Utility room and downstairs wc. Bathroom with jacuzzi and modern shower. Ensuite to master bedroom. sauna and heated swimspa. Detached double garage. No chain.

**Dyfan Road, Barry - £126,950**

Three bedroom semi detached, situated in central Barry. Hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, storage room, bathroom and separate wc to 1st floor. upvc DG. Gas CH. Gardens to front, side and rear. Off road parking for two vehicles. Close to local amenities and bus route.

**Glynbridge Close, Barry - £159,950**

Three bedroom detached bungalow. Cul de sac location. North of Barry. Porch, hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen, shower room, upvc DG. Gas CH. Enclosed rear garden with views across playing fields. Low maintenance front garden. Driveway with off road parking for two vehicles leading to integral garage. Close to local amenities. No chain.

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TALBOT CENTRE

The Talbot Community Centre was delighted to welcome the new Bridgend County Borough Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Clive and Pauline James to lunch last Friday.

This was their first official visit to Pyle and Kenfig Hill, which both represent on the Borough Council; it also coincided with the completion of the new suspended ceiling in the Hall.

Joining them for lunch was the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Len Grabham and his wife Lorraine, Coun Mike Kearns, the newly elected Chair of Pyle Community Council, Cllr Allan John, the Clerk to Pyle Community Council, Harold Phillips, Chair of the Talbot Community Centre, Richard Sims and his wife Sue.

Following lunch it was great to see the Mayoress, chains as well, get in amongst the members of the Talbot for a game of Bingo.

For Information and details of forthcoming events and activities at the Talbot Community Centre, ring Cheryl Butcher on 01656 749754.

COUNCIL TALK Mynydd Cynffig

Infants School recently invited the Clerk of Pyle Community Council Harold Phillips along with Councillors Kay John, Gina Hooper and Andrea Jones to give a talk about what they do for the community.

Prior to the visit, everyone in class wrote a question to put to the councillors in order to get some answers.

They discovered that there are about nine people on the committee who work about six hours a week depending on what is happening. One member said that "It's not like a teacher's job", explaining that they do not get paid for being a community councillor.

When asked why did the job, they said that they liked looking after the people in Pyle and Kenfig Hill, making the community look pretty by planting flowers and picking up litter, supplying new benches and bus shelters.

Some of the Councillors have been doing this for between two and 10 years while newer members have

only been doing it for a few months.

The children asked them what they could do to help in the community, and a council member said: "Don't throw rubbish on the floor and tell your friends and family members not to either, use the bin instead". The councillors also asked them not to draw on walls.

At the end the children taught them their 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' song, which they changed a little to make it special for the community council.

The children of year 2 thanked the councillors for coming to the school and had photos taken with them.

COUNCIL NEWS

After years of neglect, the Milestone on the A48 near to Ye Old Wine House, Pyle (better known as the Tap) has been refurbished by Pyle Community Council.

The Council acknowledges the generosity of the brewery and management of the Tap for their kind donation towards the cost of the refurbishment and also to Mr J.J. Williams of J.J. Williams Industrial Painting Contractors for the end result.

The annual meeting of Pyle Community Council was held on Wednesday, May 22 in the Talbot Community Centre.

Kay John, the outgoing chair, thanked all members of the council for making her third term of office enjoyable. She went on to say that the spirit of co-operation and conviviality in which the meetings were held enabled the council to concentrate on improving the communities of both Pyle and Kenfig Hill.

Coun John thanked her vice chair, Coun Mike Kearns, for deputising in her absence and wished him well in the coming year as chair of the council. Coun John also congratulated the Councillors for their involvement with the many organisations and encouraged them to continue with this policy.

Finally, Coun John thanked the clerk to the council, Mr Harold Phillips, for his support over the last two years.

In reply, Coun Pauline James, along with Mrs Karen Evans from the public area, paid tribute to the excellent work Coun John had performed her duties as chair.

Coun Michael Kearns



Pupils give a thumbs up!



Milestone.

was proposed for the position of chair by Coun P. James and seconded by Coun G. Hooper and was duly appointed for the year.

Coun Georgina Hooper was proposed by Coun K. John and seconded by Coun P. James and was duly appointed for the year.

Election of sub-committee members – Planning: Coun G. Hooper, Coun A. Jones and Coun G. Brown – Finance: Coun P. James, Coun A. John and Coun K. John – Employment: Coun P. James, Coun B. Jones and Coun M. Kearns – Senior Citizens: Coun P. James and Coun A. John – Youth: Coun B. Jones and Coun G. Brown – Highways: Coun A. John, Coun A. Jones and Coun M. Kearns – Footpaths & Open Spaces: Coun A. John, Coun G. Brown and Coun M. Kearns – Collwyn: Coun A. John, Coun B. Jones and Coun M. Kearns – Remembrance Day: Coun P. James and Coun E. Peakman – Margam Opencast: Coun A. John, Coun K. John and Coun B. Jones – Heathbridge Miners Square: Coun A. John, Coun A. Jones and Coun M. Kearns.

The following were appointed to represent the council – One Voice Wales: Coun E. Peakman – Schools:

Coun G. Hooper, Mynydd Cynffig Junior School – Coun K. John, Mynydd Cynffig Infants School – Coun A. Jones, Pyle Primary School – BCBC Town & Community Forum – Coun M. Kearns – Festival Week & Fun Day – Coun Gina Hooper and Coun Kay John.

PUPILS' AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School, who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Brooke Rees Simcock – Class 1, Ffion Harman – Class 2, Elva Vos De Mooy – Class 3, Teilan Loveluck – Class 4, April Bennett – Class 5, Shauna Lewis – Class 6 and Abigail Walker – Class 7. The Head Teachers Award went to Lowri Powis – Class 3.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Chloe Parry, Keiron Furguson, Tegan Bateman, Luke Hamer, Lewis Macleod, Kelsey Williams, Dylan Phillips, Hadi Akinpar, Aaron



Kay, Andrea and Gina with pupils.

Twose, Lowri Thomas and Lucy Clark.

Congratulations, also, to Lowri Powis from Class 3 who achieved a bronze medal for finishing in third place in her event in the final Bridgend Schools cross country meeting of the season at Coleg Y Dderwen, Tondur site (formerly Ynysawdre Comprehensive School). There were also excellent runs by Owain Pugh and Thomas Attwood both from class 1.



Harold, Kay, Andrea and Gina talk to the pupils

Branch celebrates year of firsts

THE monthly meeting of St Hilary WI was held in the village hall on May 14 – the AGM was combined with the resolution meeting – and commenced with a welcome to WI adviser, Mrs Janet Jones, of Pontypridd WI.

It was announced that the coffee morning held by Sue Knight had raised a much-needed £70 for Institute funds.

Jenny Hughes began the treasurer's report by giving a vote of thanks to honorary auditor, Mr Jeff Niblett.

Next year may be tight financially, as membership is now down to 15.

President, Betty Thomas said that it had been a year of firsts: the AGM moved from October to May because of travelling during the dark winter nights;

the birthday celebration became a lunch instead of a dinner; and also because of dark nights, there were three afternoon instead of evening meetings.

Janet Jones spoke on the launching of the new WI Guide, which uses technology.

Voting for the new committee then took place.

Actual voting was unnecessary as, apart from one member, the Committee was to remain the same. Sue Knight stepped down and Sian Deal was elected in her stead.

This year there was only one Resolution: promoted by the National Federation, calling on members to support local businesses on High Streets to try and reverse their decline.

The very high rents on Cowbridge High Street were mentioned among other things. Many thought that this was a

matter that would be more or less impossible to influence and that there were other areas where voices and action could actually make a difference.





It was agreed that general dissatisfaction with the Resolution would be mentioned when voting was sent to the Federation.

To round up the meeting Jo Williams gave an amusing report on the spring council meeting held on April 29 in Porthcawl, which she and Joy Rees attended on the Institute's behalf.

Oliver Lewis won the competition for an item of copper.

The next meeting will be on June 11 and will be a croquet evening held at the home of president Betty Thomas.

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H4U reference 380502
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Gas central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Parking
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 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
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 • Double-glazing
 • Warden and alarm
 Rent £105.23 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 388824
 Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets
 • Studio apartment
 • First floor (no lift)
 • Double glazing
 • Parking/gardens
 • Communal entrance
 Rent £110.45 per inc heat, water & service chgs

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 7010839
 Suit for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Walk in shower
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Warden and alarm
 Rent £95.34 per week

HATHAWAY PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 211520
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £104.04 per week including water charges

LABURNAM WAY, PENARTH

H4U Reference 240882
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £104.19 per week including water charges

LON YR EGLYWS, ST BRIDES MJR

H4U Reference 250019
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Two-bedroom flat
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 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £84.93 per week including water charges

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H4U Reference 7100589
 Suit for a single person or couple in receipt of pension credits
 • Three-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £83.00 per week

PORHKERRY ROAD, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 247373
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
 Unsuitable for applicants with mobility issues
 • One-bed bungalow
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £96.83 per week inc water & alarm chgs

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243262
 Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Second floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Warden and alarm
 Rent £105.23 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243963
 Suit for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor (lift)
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Warden and alarm
 Rent £114.18 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

RUTHEN TERRACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 222543
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 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £79.62 per week including water charges



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E40 - £465 pcm - Two bedrooms,
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Sea View Place, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
70' Rear Garden
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HYSBYSIAD O WRANDAWIAD
DEDDF BYWYD GWYLLT A CHEFN GWLAD 1981

HYSBYSIR DRWY HYN Y BYDD

AROLYGYDD A BENODIR GAN WEINODIGION CYMRU YN BRESNENOL YN YSTAFELL F38, SWYDDFA'R DOCAU, DOCAU'R BARRI, Y BARRI CF63 4RT AR

DDYDD MAWRTH 25 MEHEFIN 2013 AM 10.00 am
ER MWYN CYNNAL YMCENAD LLEOL
CYHOEDDUS AC WEDYN I BENDERFYNU AR:
DEDDF BYWYD GWYLLT A CHEFN GWLAD 1981
- CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GORCHYMYN ADDASU'R MAP DIFFINIOL 2011
- LLWYBR TROED 75, Y BARRI

Bydd effaith y Gorchymyn, os caiff ei gadarnhau fel y'i gwnaed, yn addasu'r Map Diffiniol a'r Datganiad ar gyfer yr ardal drwy ychwanegu atynt y llwybr troed sy'n cychwyn o Bwynt A (NGR 309870 168313) ar Fap y Gorchymyn yn Ffordd Cwm Cidi, gan ddilyn trac tarmac 5 metr o led i gyfeiriad gorllewinol, yn troi i'r gorllewin-dde-orllewin ar ôl 47 metr ac i'r de-orllewin ar ôl 69 metr arall, ac wedyn yn parhau am 59 metr tan i'r llwybr dael y trac tarmac ar Bwynt B (NGR 309716 168253) ac yn cyrraedd blaengwrt tarmac. Mae'r llwybr yn parhau i'r de-ddwyrain drwy'r blaengwrt, yn 5 metr o led am bellter o 11 metr i Bwynt C (NGR 309724 168246). O Bwynt C, mae'r llwybr yn dilyn allniad de-orllewinol am 29 metr, wrth fynd ymlaen yn 1.2 metr o led dros lawr caled gwaith cartffosiath tanddaearol ac yn terfynu lle mae'n croesi i ffin Parc Gwledig Portcheiri ar Bwynt D (NGR 309704 168222).

Diben yr Ymchwiliad yw galluogi'r Arolygydd i glywed sylwadau gan y rhai sydd wedi gwrthwnebu'r gorchymyn. Gall unrhyw un arall sydd â buddiant hefyd fod yn bresennol a chael caniatâd i siarad yn ôl disgrisiwn yr Arolygydd.

Caiff unrhyw un sydd am weld y datganiadau achos a doglennau eraill sy'n ymwneud â'r Gorchymyn hwn, wneud hynny drwy drefnu i ymweld â swyddfeidd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Iestford, Y Barri yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. (Cewch ffonio Gwyn Teague neu Sandra Thomas yn y cyngor ar 01446 704810).

Helen May
Awdurdodwyd gan Weinodigion Cymru

RYDYM YN CROESAWY GOHEBIAITH
YN GYMRAEG A SAESNEG

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

AN INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY THE WELSH MINISTERS WILL ATTEND AT ROOM F38, DOCK OFFICE, BARRY DOCKS, BARRY CF63 4RT ON

TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2013 AT 10.00 am
TO HOLD A PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY AND TO SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINE:
WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 - VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011 - FOOTPATH 75, BARRY

The effect of the Order, if confirmed as made, will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding to them the footpath commencing from Point A (NGR 309870 168313) on the Order Map at Ffordd Cwm Cidi, following a 5 metre wide tarmac track in a westerly direction, turning west south west after 47 metres and southwest after a further 69 metres, then continuing for 59 metres until the path exits the tarmac track at Point B (NGR 309716 168253) and enters into a tarmac forecourt. The path proceeds south east through the forecourt with a width of 5 metres for a distance of 11 metres to Point C (NGR 309724 168246). From Point C, the path then adopts a south westerly alignment for 29 metres proceeding with a width of 1.2 metres over the hard standing of an underground sewage works to terminate where it crosses into the boundary of Portkerry Country Park at Point D (NGR 309704 168222).

The purpose of the Inquiry is to enable the Inspector to hear representation from those persons who have objected to the Order. Any other interested persons may also attend and be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Inspector.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to this Order may do so by appointment at the Vale of Glamorgan Council offices, Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry, during normal office hours (Council contact: Gwyn Teague or Sandra Thomas, tel.no. 01446 704810).

Helen May
Authorised by the Welsh Ministers

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Family Notices

Susan Anna Turrell

A year ago today, on May 30, you were sadly taken from us, but our memories of you still remain.

Miss you always, all our love, the family.

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Family Notices

JOHNSON Dorothy

(formerly Lasseter)

After a long illness, borne with great fortitude, Dot passed away on Friday May 24.

Dot was a much loved mum to Geoffrey and a loving sister, grandmother and great grandmother. She will be missed by her extended family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday June 4 at 1.45pm.

No flowers by request. Donations in lieu to Tenovus c/o Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0S3.

EDWIN J WEDLAKE (30th May)

A year ago you left us, no time to say goodbye, We miss his smile, his cheery ways We miss the things he used to say The happy times that we often recall Is when we miss him most of all Love always, Shirley and family.

CUMMINGS Valerie Mary

Peacefully on the 26th May 2013, Val of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Brian, and dearly loved mother of Andrew and Dawn, mother in law of Jeff and loving grandmother of Stacey, Gareth, Joshua and Gemma and great grandmother of Jack. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Funeral service on Thursday 6th June in Coychurch Crematorium at 10.30 a.m. All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son, Llantwit Major 01446 792489.

Family flowers only but donations may be made to the Salvation Army c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

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What's On

IN BRIEF

Charity night

A CHARITY evening will be held on Friday (May 31) at Pyle Rugby Club, featuring Rocking Dave Riley; proceeds in aid of Genesis Research Trust - improving the health of women and babies. Tickets are £5, 7.30pm.

Contact Mandy 07796 828564.

Meet Greyhounds

THERE is a chance to Meet the Greyhounds with Greyhound Welfare outside Cowbridge Town Hall and area between 11.30am - 2pm this Saturday (June 1).

For further information, telephone 01446 750663.

Hospice day

ON Saturday June 1, George Thomas Hospice Care will hold its annual fun day and car boot sale in Whitchurch Hospital grounds to raise vital funds to support the charity's work as the major provider of specialist palliative care to those suffering from cancer and other life threatening illnesses in Cardiff.

The day starts with the car boot sale at 9.30am, followed by live music, a fun fair, stalls and pony rides, a Tug-of-War contest, three live bands, a coconut shy, Tai Kwon do display, fire engines and cream teas. Call GTHC on 029 2052 4150.

Evie benefit

BARRY Ladies Choir is holding a coffee morning on Saturday, June 1 in St Helen Church hall between 10am and 12 noon with stalls, to help Evie, a local four-year-old girl, travel to America to receive life-changing surgery not available in the UK.

For further information about Evie, see website www.hopeforevie.co.uk.

Rhoseo bingo

THE management committee of Rhoseo Community Hall is holding another bingo afternoon on Saturday June 1 at 2pm in Stewart Rd, Rhoseo. All proceeds will go towards the running of the hall.

The annual general meeting of the hall takes place on Monday June 3 at 7pm.

Surgery

LABOUR councillors for Dyfan ward, Barry, Anthony Powell and Claire Curtis, will hold an advice surgery on Saturday June 1 at Highlight Park Community Centre, from 11am to 12pm. No appointment is necessary. **Summer learning!** AT Barry Learning Centre enrolments are being taken for six, four-week courses with a flavour of summer.

Holiday French, out-and-about photography or sketching, garden mosaics, and a free course for those who want to gain confidence using a computer. There is also a creative writing course.

For anyone thinking of learning Welsh a new short taster course will be running at Palmerston centre from Monday June 3, 1pm - 3pm with a free creche.

Contact Barry Learning Centre (01446 738054) or Palmerston centre 01446 733762 for further details.

Hospital discharge advice

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale are holding an informa-

tion session at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, when an advisor from Age Concern hospital discharge will be available to answer any questions or give advice to people over 50 on Tuesday June 4 10am - 12 midday.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Plant sale

JUNE 6, Llanilltyd Fawr In Flower, coffee morning and plant sale at Old Rosedew House, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major, 10.30am. Open garden and Victorian dolls house. Support the town's floral display.

Ynysawdre music

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening of multi-instrumental music with Chris Hastings on Friday June 6 at 7pm. Call Mair on 01656 722115 for details.

Art Society

ON Thursday June 6, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist Kevin Strong, who will give a water-colour demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge 7pm - 9pm. Visitors are welcome.

For full programme see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Summer ball

PENCOED Town and District Twinning Association will be holding a Summer Ball to coincide with a visit from twin town Plouzané, Brittany on Saturday June 8 at Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall.

It starts at 7.30pm, with a buffet supper served from 8pm. Details from Wendy McDonald on 01656 865633, or email eric.mcdonald012@btinternet.com or Mark Steer, tel 01443 230282, email marksteer@talktalk.net.

Lavernock festival The little Church of St Lawrence at Fort Road, Lavernock is hosting a flower festival on June 8 - 9, from 10am to 4pm.

The theme will be 'Noah's Ark' with colourful displays of flowers.

At 7pm on June 8, the Spectrum Singers will be giving a concert in the church; entrance £5, includes a glass of wine. Tickets from Richardson's Health Shop, Paget Rooms, Penarth, or call 029 20701303.

Elder abuse

VALE 50+ Strategy forum is holding an elder abuse awareness event on June 14 at Barry Central Library, King's Square, Ground Floor from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

Many information stands covering housing benefits, community safety, advocacy, CAB, Care & Repair.

RBL meets

THE next meeting of the Barry branch Roayl British Legion will be held on Monday, June 17 at 2.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Memorial Hall.

League AGM

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League will hold its AGM on Monday June 17 at the Seaview Labour Club at 7.30pm. Contact the Secretary at Leaguesec@live.co.uk.

Island road protest group calls for action

A protest group has been formed to demand that a second road to Barry Island should be built as a matter of urgency.

Last Sunday, a meeting was held at Barry Island Sports and Social Club into the problem of access from the town to the Island.

Organiser Ian Bailey told The GEM: "There was a very good turnout - over 200 people.

"We've decided to form a protest action group.

"People feel very strongly about the issue and there will be protests."

The Vale Council has said that it is in discussions with the Welsh Government and the Waterfront Consortium, trying to broker an agreement which will see a road constructed as a priority.

The controversy has

been muddled by a disagreement between the Vale Council and developers as to whether a loan has been offered to the consortium to help finance the road.

Mr Bailey said Island residents fear a new road could still be many years away.

Local MP Alun Cairns attended the meeting, and said afterwards: "I simply cannot understand why the council are prepared to see the delay of the road.

"After all, it won't cost them a penny. Its construction is a condition of the development of 'The Quays' area."

Coun Richard Bertin told The GEM: "We really must get to the bottom of this. Has a loan been offered to the developer or not?"

"I'd call on the Welsh Government and Vale Council to do all they can to make sure the road is built as soon as possible."

Knitters unite!



Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, and Nora Howarth.

TO mark Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan's 40th anniversary, a knitting project - 'Show you care, knit a square' - is under way.

Members of the public were invited to create a six-inch square all about themselves, which has now become part of a commemorative blanket.

The John Lewis Cardiff Store again played host for the project. Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, and Nora Howarth were judges.

Sarah Rochira, said: "It has been a real privi-

lege to be involved with Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale's knitting project. The entries showed such imagination and creativity, with each square telling a story of its own.

"I'm pleased that the blanket will be displayed around Cardiff for everyone to enjoy, and I especially look forward to showcasing the blanket at a number of my events".

A special mention goes to Karen Lowe from Age Concern who came up with the idea of the wall hanging to celebrate the anniversary.

JUNE CONCERT

BARRY Male Voice Choir is breaking with tradition - its annual concert is to be held in June, rather than October.

Choir Secretary Richard King explained: "It's a carefully considered decision. We feel that the new earlier date will allow the choir to embark on its new Christmas repertoire earlier than in the past and provide a more varied and well rehearsed programme. We are delighted to welcome two local talented soloists Jodi Bird and Tim Reynolds as our concert guests."

The concert will be held at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church Wyndham Street, Barry on Friday, June 14 at 7pm. Tickets £6 are available from choristers, at the door, or tel 01446 402398.

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GEM sport

Tondu RFC celebrate winning SWALEC Division 1 West title



Captain Paul Smithson with SWALEC Division 1 West trophy
PICTURES BY HUW EVANS PICTURE AGENCY.

TONDU RFC have been presented with the SWALEC National League Division 1 West title at their end of season awards evening on Saturday, May 25.

The club sealed their title triumph and promotion to the Championship with 85 points and exactly 100 tries – 10 of which came from centre Matthew Davies – during the season. It's been a successful second season in Division 1 West for the squad, who have vastly improved on their ninth place finish of the previous campaign.

Tondu's celebrations come a week after former player Lee Byrne featured heavily in the Heineken Cup final for runners-up Clermont Auvergne.

Team captain and Tondu's top points scorer of the campaign, Paul Smithson, added: "I think the key to our success this season has been consistency – consistency in the playing squad and

consistency in the results. We got off to a flying start winning games with vital bonus points.

"We're a relatively small squad but we're close and we know each other well. We'll move forward next season and embrace the underdog status that we'll get in a higher division. It's always good to get a new challenge against new teams."

Head coach, Gerald Williams, said: "It's been a long hard season and we're delighted to be crowned as champions. Our goal at the start of the season was to win the league and we've achieved that. We maintained our form throughout the campaign – starting off strongly and then regrouping after a little blip midway through the season and picking up important points.

"We've got a strong unit here and a good group of players to move forward. This season there has been some big performances with players really stepping up to the plate."

Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, May 22: first Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox, second Mary Moore and John Beard, equal third John Henson and Geoff Tinkler & Andrew Scott and Liam Sheridan. The best placed improvers for Thursday, May 23, were Dave and Debbie Lea.

Friday, May 24: first Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, second Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner, third Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

For further information contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968), John Evans (01656 880372) or David Newman (01656 649138). **DN**

Local football team plays at special Olympics event

KELLY HALL recently took her disabled football team (Bridgend DFC) to Cullumpton to play in the South West Special Olympics football tournament against Bicton College, Special Olympics Plymouth, Bristol Rovers Pirates and Bristol Rovers Ability.

After a two-hour journey, the team had to get straight off the bus to play Bicton College. Although they had a lot of chances, it was a scoreless draw.

The second match saw the team play Plymouth in an end-to-end game, winning through a goal from

Michael Sokolowski.

The third game saw Stephen Parker score twice to beat Bristol Rovers Pirates 2-0; the fourth game was the toughest against Bristol Rovers Ability and, with keeper Jonathan Williams being on form, they secured a draw.

Kelly Hall said: "This was our first tournament in months, and what an improvement. This is the first time we have kept four clean sheets."

Good win for Bridgend under-12s

BRIDGEND TOWN cricket club under-12s continued their good start to the season, away to Maesteg Town on a glorious sunny evening.

Maesteg Town won the toss and elected to bat. The Bridgend attack were quickly into their stride. J. Hayes setting the tone with a maiden spell in what was a fine bowling display from all the Bridgend bowlers.

They were aided by some excellent wicket keeping from H. Evans with three stumpings. This helped to restrict Maesteg Town to a score of 218 for 6 wickets

Team: E.Biebrach (c), A. Dalton, H. Evans (wk), C. Hart, J. Hayes, O. Johns, B. Jones, O. Lewis, K. Metha, M.Padmanabhan. **JH**

BRYNTEG YOUNGSTERS PROGRESS IN CUP EVENT

ASPIRING young footballers from across Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend battled it out for a place in the grand finals of the Railway Safety Cup on May 24.

The five-a-side tournament, organised by British Transport Police (BTP) and supported by Network Rail, saw teams from comprehensive schools in both counties take to the pitch.

Overall winners of the regional heat, which was held at PlayFootball in Swansea, were Bridgend's Brynteg School. They will be joined in the grand finals on June 18 by runners-up Dyffryn and semi-final-

ists Cymer Afan and Glanafan.

All four sides will now compete against teams from Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Rhondda Cynon Taf for the honour of being crowned South Wales champions for 2013.

The aim of the event is to promote alternative activities for youngsters to discourage them from trespassing on the railway, which can prove fatal.

During the tournament, which is supported by the Football Association of Wales and Brecon Carreg, each team of Year 8 pupils received an interactive safety presentation from Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

It's a mixed weekend for the Cavaliers

SATURDAY saw the Cavs take on Felinfoel in another SWCA league game. The Cavs lost the toss and were, once again, put into bat.

The Cavs made steady progress but lost wickets at regular intervals to be 50-3 in the 13th over; Felinfoel opener T. Jones (9-0-35-3) did most of the damage to the Cavs top order.

With the Cavs middle order performing well below expectations this season there was some unease in the Cavs dressing room. However, a well-built partnership of 88 between James Snelson (46) and Sam Pickford (110) steadied any nerves.

Snelson was eventually caught attempting to reach his half century with a maximum. Sam's century was outstanding and came off only 114 balls and included 13 fours and 2 sixes. The Cavs eventually reached 238 all out from 49.1 overs.

The Cavs took to the field, after another fine tea, in the splendid sunshine wanting to finally bowl a team out and get their first full win of the season. Jono Cheal (7-4-20-1) and Gareth Hughes (6-0-27-0) managed to make an early inroad into a Felinfoel team who were dismissed for 39 last week.

Felinfoel opener, Mark Thomas (60) batted very well before he was exposed to the short ball from Sam Pickford (10-1-38-1) and was out bowled off the bowling of Ben Jenkins (12-6-34-2).

Nathan Jones (45) was the only other Felinfoel batsman who attempted to score runs as Felinfoel quickly began to play for the losing draw. James Snelson (7-2-17-2) and James Thomas (7-1-20-2) managed to reduce Felinfoel to 163-8 from their 50 overs thanks to well taken catches from Jake McNaughton and Ben Jenkins.

The 2nd XI travelled to Felinfoel for the SWCA league match on a lovely sunny day. Shane won the toss and elected to field first. The decision looked to be a good one as Dave Cheal (10-1-42-1) bowled an opening batsman with the second ball of the game.

However, the Felinfoel batsmen were in good touch as they amassed 252 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in their 40 overs, helped by a number of dropped

catches that proved crucial on the day.

R Brown (75) and A Griffiths (59) put on 105 runs for the third wicket with R Jones (55) hitting his maiden 50 for the club and G Williams also scoring 28. Kieran Davies took two wickets with Phil Harris, Scott Buckley, Mark Jenkins and Ashley Gifford all taking one a piece.

The Cavs replied with 117 for 3 off their 40 overs and gained a losing draw; top scorer was Scott Buckley (40) who shared a partnership of 70 with Gifford (22 not out) and 36 with Kieran Davies (24). G Williams, S Johns and C Thomas all took a wicket each as nine players were given a bowl by Felinfoel.

The Cavs, with a number of batsmen missing, had some much needed batting practice in the middle against a team that bowled very well in an excellent fielding display. The Cavs will hope for better fortune this week when they entertain Kidwelly at home.

On another beautiful day, the Sunday XI played at Miskin Manor in a Thomas Carrol Glamorgan & Monmouthshire Sunday League game. Nigel Allison won the toss and elected to field first on a beller of a pitch.

Miskin Manor were bowled out for 157 with the penultimate ball of their 40 overs innings. N Robinson (59), H Phillips (28) and D Burr (23) all made good contributions amidst some tight bowling and fielding from the Cavs.

James Dawes bowled well with no luck as Jono Cheal, Kieran Davies, Joe Jenkins and Dave Russell all took two wickets each with Dave Cheal getting one Luke Allison running out N Robinson with a fine bit of fielding.

After a fantastic tea the Cavs set about the run chase with all batsmen batting positively against some good bowling from Miskin Manor. Harry Withers (14), Jono Cheal (16), Scott Buckley (11) all shared partnerships with opening batsman Dave Russell (47) before skipper Nigel Allison (41 not out) joined Dave at the wicket with the two batsmen taking the score to 153 before Dave was bowled by M Giles.

Nigel secured victory for the Cavs with a fine boundary as the reached 161 for 5 in the 32nd over.

DMC

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